

Ayush Mhatre sets a new world record for youngest player to score 150+ in List A cricket against Nagaland, bettering Jaiswal's effort. P 23

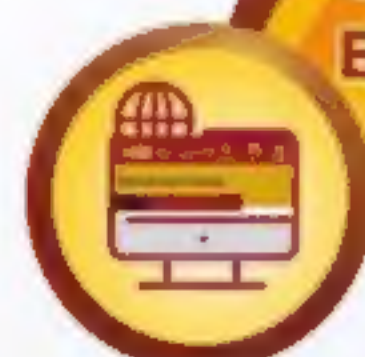


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Protein is trending in India, and it is exactly what the country needs

Companies are betting big on protein with products ranging from curd to chips. Is this a much-needed nutritional shift or overhyped obsession with the 'P' word?

Shruti.Sonal@timesofindia.com

Protein curd, protein butter milk, protein milk, protein pasta and even protein water. And of course, there are countless powders and bars that sound like desserts with flavours such as New York cheesecake and cookie butter crunch. Even the humble sattu, the food of farmers and working class in Bihar, is being pitched as a protein mix. Clearly, protein has gone from something only gym bros cared about to almost an obsession in urban India.

BEYOND THE MANIA

Protein, along with carbohydrates and fat, is an essential macronutrient. It helps in growth, development and tissue repair. And it becomes more important as we age because we need it to preserve muscle mass and strength. It also makes us feel fuller so that we don't load up on carbs. But do we really need all those protein-enhanced products in our diets? While in

On an average, an Indian is consuming about 2,000 calories per meal. But the protein to calorie ratio is abysmal, while the carbs to calorie ratio is the highest

Sangeetha Aiyer
NUTRITIONIST

the West, the conversation is about whether people are overdoing the protein, it's a different story in India. We are a protein-deficient nation due to vegetarian diets, selective meat-eating and the fact that a big part of the population can't afford it. According to UN Food and Agriculture Organisation data, India had a daily protein intake of only 70.5 gm per capita in 2021, lagging behind not only China's 124.6 gm and US' 124.3 gm, but also trailing Indonesia (79.8gm) and Pakistan (70.7gm). Studies have thrown up similar revelations: a survey by the Indian Market Research Bureau found that 73% of urban affluent individuals in India are protein deficient, with a vast majority unaware of their daily protein requirements or suitable protein sources.

But this is changing, albeit slowly. Hyderabad-based nutritionist Sangeetha Aiyer says the number of client requests that come her way regarding advice for a protein-rich diet plan



HOW MUCH PROTEIN DO YOU NEED?

WHO and ICMR recommend a daily protein intake of 0.8gms per gm of body weight for adults. Active folks need more. It can be calculated with this formula:

Daily Protein Requirement (DPR) = 0.8 x (your body weight)

For 70kg person, protein intake = 0.8 x 70 = 56gm

What to check for?
Verify actual protein per serving on label, says Shashank Mehta. "If a product advertises 'high protein' but delivers only 2gm per serving, that's misleading."

How much is too much?
Very high-protein diets can cause kidney stones. Too much red meat may up heart disease and colon cancer risk. Plant-based proteins may not carry similar risks

Cheap can come at a price

Some brands sell whey protein at prices below cost of quality sourcing, using lower concentration whey (around 40%) or amino-spiking to inflate protein content. "These might have celebrity endorsements and attractive pricing but compromise on nutritional value," Mehta says

products available in retail and e-commerce channels. These include early movers like The Whole Truth, set up in 2019, along with the entry of big FMCG players like ITC, Amul and Tata Consumer Products.

The trend can be termed as a 'democratisation' of protein consumption, says Shashank Mehta, founder of The Whole Truth Foods. "Athletes across disciplines — from endurance sports to casual sports — are now incorporating supplements into their nutrition. More importantly, we're seeing growing adoption among people who aren't necessarily leading active lifestyles, as awareness grows about age-related muscle loss and protein's role in maintaining muscle mass," Mehta says.

BUSTING MYTHS

Attempts to plug this literacy gap have sprung up online. Influencer Revant Himatsingka,

popularly known as 'Food Pharmar' online, announced the launch of 'Indian Protein School' recently in social media posts. Himatsingka outlined that under the project, he would train over 10 million parents and school teachers on what a protein-rich diet looks like; launch a campaign pushing schools and offices to serve affordable protein options and partner with doctors to conduct research on protein science. Meanwhile, Mehta has started a newsletter which busts myths around protein. "We need to shift the conversation from protein being a 'fitness supplement' to what it really is — a fundamental nutrient that most Indians are missing out on," he says.

While the problem of protein-deficiency exists across the board, it's more pronounced among vegetarians, says Aiyer, with many finding it difficult to meet the daily protein requirement of 0.83gm per kg of body weight per day for adults set by the Indian Council of Medical Research. "For example, every household that eats a cup of dal thinks they're eating a lot of protein. However, they forget that a 100-gm bowl of dal is boiled and further diluted by adding water, spices and other ingredients. As a result, an average 150ml of dal actually contains only 2-3gm of protein," she explains. A better option, she says, would be to add paneer or tofu to the plate, along with curd or yogurt to a meal consisting of a regular bowl of dal and chapati/rice.

With many finding it difficult to carefully curate their meals, quite a few innovative options have sprung up. One of them is SuperYou, co-founded by Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh and entrepreneur Nikunj Bhiyani. "Post Covid, awareness about protein has increased dramatically. This has resulted in what I like to call the proteinification of our foods," says Bhiyani, whose own contribution to the category is a bio-fermented product. "Not only have studies shown that it has the same efficacy as an animal-based protein despite being vegan, it's also good for the gut as it's fermented." For those who have smelt the after-effects of too much protein, that's a decided plus. The first SuperYou launch is a protein wafer, with added fibre but no sugar or palm oil.

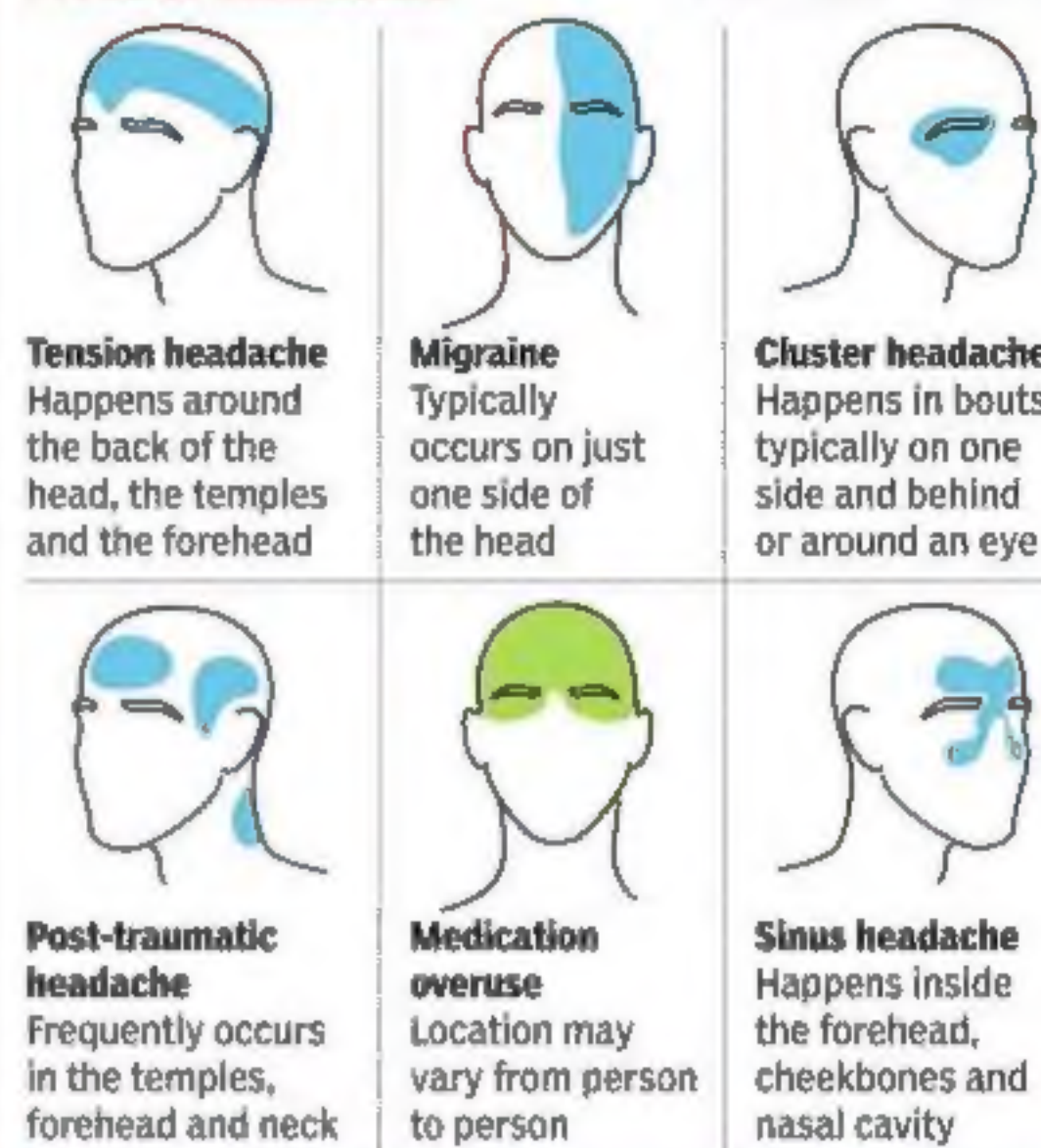
Taste and palatability remain key to cracking the market, says Bengaluru-based entrepreneur Vinit Kumar. Kumar and his team have patented clear whey protein isolate Protype that comes in flavours like mango peach, blueberry crush, and lychee martini. "I wanted to sell a form of really palatable protein, which could be consumed by everyone daily, not just by gym goers," Kumar says.

While protein is a crucial building block, nutritionists warn against overdoing it or neglecting fruits, vegetables and whole grains which provide vital vitamins, minerals and fibre. So, lead the whey, but carefully

Migraine, sinus or tension? How to tell headaches apart

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), almost half of all adults experience a headache at least once a year. But not every headache is the same

TYPES OF HEADACHES



Women are 2-3 times more likely to suffer from migraine than men
They are also 1.5 times more likely to get tension headaches
But more men get cluster headaches

Source: MedicalNewsToday



Kaju katli 1 piece		Rice kheer one serving (100gm)
70	CALORIES	140
1gm	PROTEIN	4gm
4gm	FAT	5gm
8gm	CARBS	20gm
6gm	SUGAR	10gm

Both are traditional Indian desserts but have a very different nutrition profile. Kaju katli is made with cashews and is very high on calories, fats and sugar content. Rice kheer is a better option as it's made with milk, which adds to the protein and calcium content. But one must add less sugar and use low-fat milk to reduce the calories. Kaju katli can be an occasional treat, while one needs to do portion control when it comes to rice kheer.

Source: Ritika Samaddar, chief clinical nutritionist, Max Healthcare

MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS AND RESEARCH THAT GAVE US HOPE IN 2024

Cutting-edge CAR-T cell cancer therapy, now made in India

That too, at one-tenth the cost. Mumbai-based biotech company ImmunoACT came up with NexCAR19 — a desi version of the chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy first brought out in the US. Used mainly to treat blood cancer so far, this cutting-

edge treatment is also effective for brain cancer and autoimmune diseases. NexCAR19 offers hope for low and middle-income countries that cannot afford prohibitively expensive cancer treatment.

Augmented reality for weight-loss surgery

In another first, a bariatric surgeon from Delhi used an Apple Vision Pro augmented reality device to perform weight-loss surgery on a 45-year-old patient who weighed 155kg. The interactive 3D environment provided by AR helped the surgeon see complex anatomical structures with much greater clarity.

New gene therapy restores UK toddler's hearing

Opal Sandy had lived all 18 months of her life without being able to hear anything, until a 16-minute surgery gave her a working copy of the gene thought to have caused her deafness. Now, she can hear almost perfectly. More deaf children in the UK, Spain, and the US will participate in this gene therapy trial over the next five years.

Japan uses stem cells for cornea transplant; three get sight back

A Japanese ophthalmologist took donor blood cells and turned them into corneal epithelial cells that were successfully transplanted in three people with severely damaged corneas in a global first. All three have greatly improved vision now, with no major side effects. Clinical trials are planned in March to further assess the treatment's efficacy.

Delhi beagle gets hybrid heart surgery

Juliet, a seven-year-old beagle afflicted with Mitral valve disease, underwent a minimally-invasive Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair (TEER) in Delhi, an entirely image-guided procedure dubbed the first in Asia and the second in the world. The common heart condition is a major cause of canine deaths worldwide. This hybrid 'beating heart' surgery was first performed at Colorado state university a couple of years ago.

Mumbai teen gets 1st shoulder-level arm transplant

Anamta Ahmad, a 15-year-old from Goregaon, Mumbai was the first in the world, and the youngest to get a shoulder-level arm transplant after touching a live wire caused critical burns in her right arm. "Her muscles, blood vessels and nerves were severely damaged. We almost had to work inside the chest to repair them," said plastic surgeon Dr Nilesh Satbhai who performed her transplant in September.

Egypt becomes malaria-free

"The disease that plagued pharaohs now belongs to its history," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in October after certifying that almost 100 years of anti-mosquito efforts have finally rid Egypt of malaria. It's the third country in the WHO's eastern Mediterranean Region to get a clean bill, following the UAE and Morocco

TECHNOLOGY FOR HEALTH

Sleep apnea? Neuro implants promise good night's rest

Nearly a billion people around the world suffer from sleep apnea, a common disorder in which breathing stops and starts frequently while sleeping. And that includes around 104 million Indians. The condition is usually treated with continuous positive airway pressure or CPAP machines that come with masks blowing pressurised air through the nose and throat while sleeping. It's not the most comfortable way to get a good night's rest.

But now, some breakthroughs offer hope. In December, medics from University College London Hospitals NHS foundation trust (UCLH) fitted two patients with an app-controlled stimulator that zaps nerves in the tongue so that patients can breathe uninterrupted while sleeping. The implant called Genio was devised by medtech company Nyxoah.

Broadly, there are two kinds of sleep apnea — obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) and central sleep apnea (CSA). OSA is more common and happens

when the throat muscles relax and block air flow into the lungs. This results in choking sounds, loud snoring and waking up frequently during the night. It has deadlier effects too, increasing risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and even cancer, and perhaps most important of all, car accidents, as such patients often fall asleep at the wheel. Chip implants like Genio are specifically for OSA, having four parts — neurostimulator, activation chip, charging unit and adhesive patches.

The neurostimulator is surgically inserted, and its electrodes are put in contact with the hypoglossal nerve which makes the tongue move. An external activation chip is attached under the chin at night with an adhesive patch. The chip stimulates the nerve while sleeping, which prevents the tongue from falling back and blocking the upper airway.

CSA happens when the brain doesn't send proper signals to the diaphragm that controls breathing.



The symptoms of both kinds overlap, including gasping for air while sleeping, insomnia, daytime sleepiness, headache in the morning and irritability. Allegheny Health Network, a healthcare company from Pennsylvania, has come up with

the Remedé implant, a pacemaker-like device specifically made for CSA patients.

"In severe cases, breathing may stop for up to 90 seconds, triggering the body's fight-or-flight response, which then affects the cardiovascu-

lar system," said Daniel Shade, sleep medicine specialist and director of the Allegheny Health Network Sleep Disorders Centre, in a press release.

The remedé device sends small electrical currents to the diaphragm to stimulate normal breathing rhythms. A cardiac electrophysiologist implants the battery-powered device under the skin of the upper chest in a minimally invasive procedure. The first implant was done in Pittsburgh in Dec 2023. "This system has been clinically proven to improve a patient's quality of life, reduce daytime sleepiness, and minimise disrupted breathing events," Shade added.

In another development, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the first drug to treat obstructive sleep apnea. It's a weight-loss drug called Zepbound (tirzepatide) which, by helping people lose fat around the airway, reduces the number of times their breathing gets obstructed. AGENCIES

ASK YOUR DOCTOR

'In 9 out of 10 cases, lifestyle changes can cure back pain'

Chronic lower back pain is a leading cause of disability around the world, according to The World Health Organisation (WHO), and the second most common cause for hospital visits. It's a bane for most Indians, hindering daily chores, social lives and work. Dr G Balamurali, consultant spine surgeon at Kauvery Hospital, Chennai speaks to Pushpa Narayan about how serious the problem is and the solutions

Why is lower back pain on the rise globally?

It's owing to lifestyle changes, bad posture, obesity and poor road conditions, among other reasons. According to the WHO, back pain affected 619 million people globally in 2020 and is estimated to increase to 843 million cases by 2050. Eight out of 10 people will suffer an episode of back or neck pain after the age of 45. Over 90% of patients suffer from non-specific lower back pain that cannot be attributed to any underlying disease, tissue damage or pathology.

Is surgery a cure?

I may advise surgery for back injuries caused by accidents or diseases such as tuberculosis, or for those with anatomical changes due to disc bulge. However, nine out of 10 people with non-specific pain are advised an active lifestyle, with exercise and physiotherapy for muscle strengthening and spine rehabilitation. Posture changes such as adjusting the height of a kitchen counter; changing office chairs or pillow size; avoiding heavy weights, bending or twisting over in wrong posture; and keeping weight under control may also be recommended.

What causes back pain? Do women complain of it more often than men?

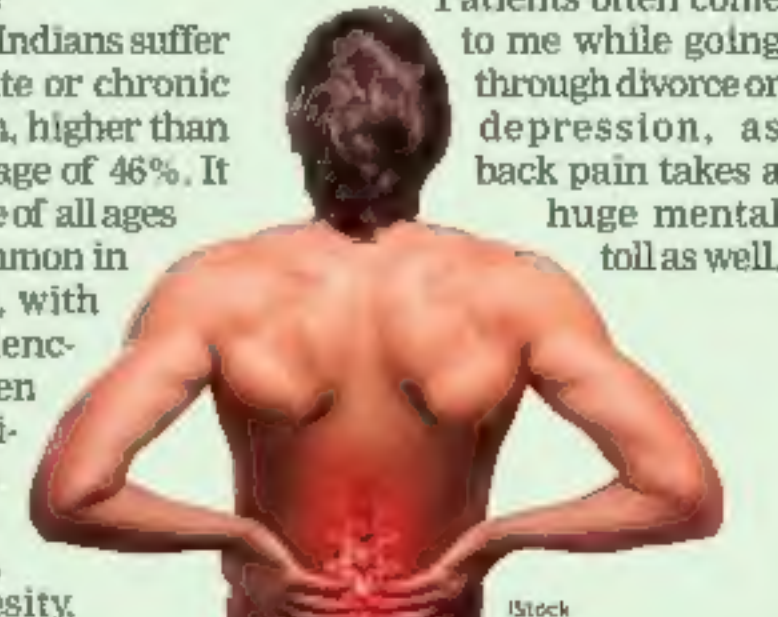
At least 66% of Indians suffer from mild, acute or chronic lower back pain, higher than the global average of 46%. It can affect people of all ages but is more common in those above 50, with women experiencing it more often than men. Various factors are responsible — short stature, bad roads, obesity,



lack of exercise and smoking, among others. In India, more women have lower back pain post-pregnancy as they don't get back to normal weight and fitness levels to keep their back muscles strong. Household chores women do here involve bending, twisting and carrying weights, which increases risks. Osteoporosis occurs early in women and can cause spine fractures and pain due to weak bones. But patients must know that it can be cured if they maintain a good lifestyle.

Isn't back pain a serious health problem then?

Nearly 95% of back pain is not serious and doesn't need surgery or intensive care, but it must not be ignored. Kids with continuous back pain and elders with sudden onset of pain should be taken to a doctor. If there's pain and numbness radiating to your leg and if you're unable to pass urine or stool, you need immediate medical attention. Patients often come to me while going through divorce or depression, as back pain takes a huge mental toll as well.



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THE TIMES

JAN 1

Happy New Year

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) |

ACTORS BRAD PITT & ANGELINA JOLIE SIGN OFF ON A DIVORCE SETTLEMENT, ENDING A CONTENTIOUS 8-YR-LONG LEGAL DISPUTE, 20

Mumbai fog over sea, fish flee to warmer waters

A fog that has blanketed a vast expanse of the Arabian sea, off Mumbai's coast, has made the fish move towards warmer waters, forcing fishermen to venture up to 200km for a catch. Bombay duck, for instance, typically caught near Versova, is now found beyond Palghar, towards Gujarat. **P 8**

Leopard at Infosys campus, staff WFH

A leopard was sighted at the Infosys campus in Mysuru early Tuesday, sending foresters, police and drones on a hunt to trap the big cat. CCTV footage showed the animal some 100m from the hostel on the campus. The campus was closed and staff asked to work from home for the day. **P 8**

Singhvi backs plan on judges' appts

Top lawyer and Congress functionary Abhishek Manu Singhvi has backed the proposal to pause appointment of high court judges from among those whose parents or close relatives are or were judges themselves, to give first-generation lawyers a chance to become constitutional court judges. **P 11**

Andhra tourist killed at Goa shack

A 30-year-old visitor from Andhra Pradesh was killed in a drunken brawl at a beach shack in Calangute in North Goa early Tuesday. A 23-year-old shack worker has been arrested. Police said a fight broke out after the inebriated tourists demanded food though the shack was closed for the day. **P 11**

WELCOMING NEW YEAR WITH A SPLASH



Tourists throng Goa's Calangute-Baga beach to witness the last sunset of 2024 on Tuesday. In Delhi, some parts of the city continued to reel under 'cold day' conditions on New Year eve as day temperatures stayed below normal with a light fog layer keeping the sun partially screened. Narela recorded the lowest maximum temperature at 14.3 degrees C, 6 notches below normal. Expect a gusty start to the New Year as chilly winds of 25-35kmph are likely with cold day conditions in some places. However, freezing night temperatures typical of New Year time in the capital are unlikely over the next few days | **P 2**

SC gives Pjb 3 more days to hospitalise Dallewal

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Tuesday granted Punjab govt three more days to implement the direction to hospitalise farmer representative Jagjit Singh Dallewal, on fast-on-to-death for more than a month, but did not take cognisance of the state's attempt to involve the Centre in breaking the impasse, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

Punjab AG Gurminder Singh informed a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Sudhanshu Dhulia that the intervenors had gone to the protest site and met the farmer leaders and representatives. "As per the intervenors, Dallewal is agreeing to take medical help if the Centre invites the farmers for talks on MSP," he said. The Justice Kant-led bench said, "Punjab govt is

Unified national mkt in draft agri policy

Three years after repealing the farm laws, Centre has come out with a draft policy framework on agriculture marketing hinting states move towards a "unified national market for agriculture produce" through single licensing and single fee. **P 11**

seeking three days more to implement the court's (Dec 20) order and achieve the desired results. Taking into consideration the totality of circumstances and in the interest of justice, we are inclined to accept the request for grant of three days more time."

► Snubs Pjb 'plea', **P 18**

SGPC panel goes soft on man who tried to kill Badal


Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee's executive committee reversed Tuesday its decision to excommunicate Narain Singh Chaura, who attempted to assassinate Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) functionary Sukhbir Singh Badal outside Amritsar's Golden Temple on Dec 4.

The Dec 9 resolution urging the Akal Takht jathedar to excommunicate Chaura from the Panth was annulled without citing any reason for doing so.

The executive committee also discussed the killing of three suspected pro-Khalistan operatives from Punjab in a shootout with police in Uttar Pradesh and demanded a judicial inquiry into the deaths. **P 8**

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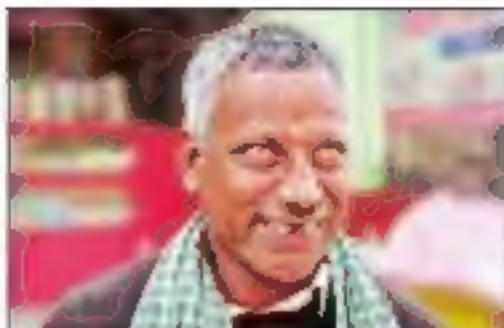
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'Water warrior': This blind Good Samaritan has saved 13 people from drowning in Bihar

Manoj Chaurasia
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Patna: Many others might have drowned if they faced the kind of crosscurrents that Bhullu Sahni, who suffers from congenital blindness, has in his life. But the doughty man from Bihar's Samastipur has instead created a splash with his rescue acts in rivers and ponds, earning the sobriquet of "Jal Yodha" (water warrior). Magical powers possess Bhullu Sahni when he dives in, seemingly inexplicable skills that have led him to save 13 people from drowning in the past five years.



I'm gifted with rare cognitive skills, which I leverage to save people in distress, says Bhullu Sahni

"What if I can't see? I am gifted with rare cognitive skills, which I leverage to save people in distress. As soon as I enter a water body, a special sense to navigate and identify the missing person is triggered inside me. Something shining appears under the wa-

ter and I rush to rescue it," said Bhullu, who has risked his life and retrieved 14 bodies that had met watery graves. Such SOSs are not rare in Samastipur, a district crisscrossed by Ganga, Budhi Gandak, Bagmati and Kamla rivers. This means Bhullu, with his unique swimming techniques and fearless approach, remains a go-to man in crisis. Bhullu comes from the "Mallah" (fisherman) community and lives in Patori block's Dumduma village. He said his father Kailu Sahni introduced him to swimming and fishing at an early age. In due course, he mastered the art, turning his affinity into

life-saving skills. "People reward me with Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 for one rescue act. I am happy with it as this helps me meet my ends," Bhullu said. Local Chaksaho panchayat head Jago Devi hailed Bhullu's Samaritan spirit, saying people rush straight to him for help whenever there are reports of someone drowning, and he never disappoints. "We have reported the rare skills of Bhullu and his benevolent acts to the district administration and sought help for him. However, nothing has come so far," Devi said. When not wading into waters, Bhullu and his kin get by selling fish and local produce.

A Parsi family that knows all about booze in Pakistan

Businessman-Politician
Isphanyar Bhandara
Tells The Story Of A
Community And A Distillery

Avijit Ghosh@timesofindia.com

In 1947, when the British transferred power to India and Pakistan, many businesses also changed hands. One of them was Murree Brewery, among the oldest distilleries in Asia, which was then largely owned by a British family. The Bhandaras of Lahore became its new owners. They were a Parsi family that had thrived in the liquor business.

Isphanyar Bhandara now runs Pakistan's top brewery. He recently made a brief halt in New Delhi on his way to Nepal. "It's my tenth visit to India," the businessman-politician said cheerfully, a Pakistan flag lapel pin on his coat the only green in his otherwise blue attire.

Liquor business is heavily regulated in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. About 96% of the country's population is Muslim. The brewery, accordingly, points out on its website, "Under the country's laws Pakistan Muslims are prohibited from consuming alcoholic drinks. Non-Muslims and foreigners require a consumption permit."

Nonetheless, the business has been rewarding for the Bhandaras. "The forbidden fruit is always sweet," said Isphanyar. "We make beers from Australian barley. Our vodkas and single malts are also doing very well. It's all about quality. We also make and export fruit juice and are heavily into (bottled) water," he added.

Dwindling Community

Success though hasn't been limited to the arena of trade. Isphanyar is also a member of the Pakistan National Assembly. His father was a central minister under Zia-ul-Haq in the 1980s and an MP during the Pervez Musharraf regime.

But, as a community, the Parsis have wilted. In 1947, Isphanyar says, about 20,000-25,000 of them lived in Pakistan. Like in India, they played a major role in nation-building, especially in cities like Karachi. They were among the top businessmen and jurists and were engaged in philanthropic work. In the 19th century, Parsis were also among the early cricketers of Karachi. According to an article in scoreline.org, a team of Parsi cricketers toured England in 1886. In 1952, when Pakistan's cricket team toured India, southpaw batter Rusi Dinshaw was part of the squad, although he didn't get to play a Test.

"Today, we are less than 1,000," says Isphanyar. "Most of the Parsi population is in its 80s or 90s, a bit like the Japanese. There are very few young Parsis in Pakistan today," he said.

Many left due to economic reasons, others due to law and order issues. One such migrant was the renowned writer



VINTAGE STUFF: The ruins of one of the earliest structures to house Murree Brewery in Pakistan's Murree tehsil. Isphanyar Bhandara (right), the company's CEO, is also a member of the Pakistan National Assembly



Bapsi Sidhwa, whose novel, Ice Candy Man, was made into a feature film called 'Earth' by director Deepa Mehta. Sidhwa passed away in Houston on Dec 25 last year; she was Isphanyar's aunt.

The 54-year-old businessman gets raw material and machinery from India. "A lot of companies in Pakistan do. The problem is, it is via Dubai," he said. But there are other reasons why he wants more trade between the two neighbours.

Bridges Of Business

"We can disagree on Kashmir, put it on the back burner. We don't have to concede our position and India doesn't

Murree Brewery, which passed into the hands of the Bhandaras of Lahore in 1947, was set up in 1860. Edward Dyer, father of Reginald Dyer, the perpetrator of the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, was its first manager

have to concede theirs. But we should keep the baggage of history aside and look at the common good of the common people. We should open the Wagah

border," he said.

More business will benefit the underprivileged, he believes. "We need it for the common man — dal, roti, cheeni, stuff like that. It will lower the inflation in Pakistan. I've made my presentations to our Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saab. I'm keeping my fingers crossed," he said.

Not many know that the brewery — it gets its name from the scenic resort town — was set up in 1860, just three years after the 1857 revolt, to mainly service British troops. Edward Dyer, father of Reginald Dyer, the perpetrator of the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, was its first manager. By 1890, water shortage and other logistical issues had forced the distillery to shift to the Rawalpindi area, where it continues to be headquartered.

There was a time when Murree Beer was sold in India. "In fact, Pakistan railways had put up tracks inside the brewery that used to carry beer to places like Kabul, Amritsar and, of course, to Karachi port," he said. But the state of politics and, consequently, policies, changed in Pakistan in the late 1970s when, exceptions aside, alcohol was banned. But as reputed Dawn columnist Nadeem Paracha wrote in 2013, "Despite the violence and the eventual prohibition on the (open) sale of alcohol and bars in Pakistan in April 1977, Pakistanis never did stop drinking."

About two decades back, a possible joint venture project proved abortive. "In 2006, when Vijay Mallya (former chairman of United Spirits) visited Pakistan to watch a cricket match, the prospect of doing something together was broached with my father. But politics did not allow them to come together," he said.

Political relations between the two countries have further dipped now. But Isphanyar is an optimist. He wants the situation to improve. And more Indo-Pak trade, he insists, is the way to begin.



Report links India to anti-Muizzu plot, Maldives ex-prez denies it

MEA Mum, But
Govt Sources
Rubbish Claim

TNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi: Former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed has dismissed a Washington Post report alleging that the opposition sought \$6 million from India to aid in a plot to impeach Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu.

The former Maldives president stated he was unaware of any "serious plot" against President Muizzu and added that India would never support such a move.

"I read with interest today's Washington Post article. I was unaware of any plot against the President, though some people always live in conspiracy. India would never back such a move, as they always support Maldives' democracy. India has never dictated terms to us, either," Mohamed Nasheed wrote on X.

The Washington Post re-



File photo of Maldives President Muizzu with PM Modi. Washington Post reported that the Maldives opposition sought \$6m from India to help impeach Muizzu. But ex-president Nasheed said India has always supported Maldives' democracy and would never back any such move

port stated that Maldivian opposition politicians proposed bribing 40 MPs, including those from Muizzu's own party, to vote to impeach him.

There was no official reaction from MEA to the report that appeared on Monday. Sources in the govt, however, strongly denied that India might have played a role in the alleged efforts to oust Muizzu. India's relations with the strategically located neighbour in the Indian Ocean have been looking up since PM Modi invited Muizzu for his swearing-in in June and the subse-

quent state visit by the president to India. During his visit to India, Muizzu said in an interview to TOI that he will never do anything to hurt India's security interests.

"In an internal document titled 'Democratic Renewal Initiative' and obtained by The Washington Post, Maldivian opposition politicians proposed bribing 40 MPs, including those from Muizzu's own party, to vote to impeach him. The document proposed paying 10 senior army and police officers and three powerful criminal gangs to ensure

Muizzu's removal. To pay off the various parties, the conspirators sought 87 million Maldivian rufiyaa, or \$6 million, and according to two Maldivian officials, it would be sought from India," Washington Post report alleged.

The report also claimed that a senior officer from India's intelligence agency, R&AW, "explored" a plan to overthrow President Muizzu months after he assumed office.

"In Jan, after Muizzu took office, an adviser to Muizzu family said, a R&AW officer at India's embassy in Washington explored a plan to overthrow the president with two Indian intermediaries who had political and business contacts in Maldives. One intermediary was Shirish Thorat, a former police officer who has worked as a private military contractor and advised Mohamed Nasheed when he was Maldivian president on how to curb Islamist radicalisation. The other was Savio Rodrigues, a Goa-based publisher who earlier served as a spokesperson for governing BJP," the report alleged.



A South Korean court issues warrants to detain impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol and search his office & residence over allegations of rebellion in connection with his short-lived declaration of martial law, P 20

A blackout hit nearly all of Puerto Rico on New Year's eve, leaving over 1.3m residents in the dark. Officials say it could take up to 2 days to restore power, P 20

HEALTH+ Protein is trending in India, and it is exactly what the country needs, P 26

Ruben Amorim calls it 'embarrassing' as a Man U manager to be discussing threat of relegation, but after 0-2 Premier League loss to Newcastle, he concedes that is the reality his team are facing, P 24

Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali surprises herself with a stellar performance to enter quarterfinals of World Blitz Championship, even as recently-crowned rapid champion Koneru Humpy makes an early exit, P 23

Cart Before The (Prancing) Horse



A couple from Mumbai driving a Ferrari California T on Revdanda beach in Raigad, Maharashtra, found themselves stuck in the sand, only to be rescued by a bullock cart. A video clip of the Dec 28 incident has gone viral on social media. The Ferrari owner, Abhishek Tapadia, faces charges of reckless driving. TNN

Half-a-dozen big mission launches in 2025: Minister

Space minister Jitendra Singh said Tuesday that half-a-dozen big missions have been lined up for launches in early 2025 that will include sending a female robot to space as a prelude to Gaganyaan manned mission & launching the world's most expensive satellite, NISAR. P14

New Dec high for Del peak power demand

The plummeting temperature in Delhi has raised power demand to new heights, with Tuesday clocking a peak of 5,213MW, the highest ever for Dec, discom officials said. P2

Chinese hackers stole docs: US

The US Treasury Dept said Chinese hackers remotely accessed several of its workstations and unclassified documents after compromising a third-party software service provider. P20

CM Biren apologises to Manipur strife victims

'Let's Begin New Year On Note Of Reconciliation'

Manish Gahin & Kangkan Kalita | TNN

New Delhi/Guwahati: Manipur CM N Biren Singh expressed "regret" and apologised to people of the state Tuesday for nearly 20 months of intermittent ethnic bloodletting on his watch, saying it was time now to "forgive and forget" as the BJP-led govt builds on the "improvement in law and order and focuses on development". "Many people have lost their loved ones, many left their homes behind...Being their CM, I feel the pain of the innocent people," he said.

"Let's begin the New Year on a reconciliatory note and work towards peace," he added, citing statistics suggest-

ing the state had rebounded from the horrors of the conflict since May 3, 2023, in which over 250 people died, many women were raped, villages burned and people displaced. Comparing the period May to Oct 2023 and May 2024 to date, Singh said Manipur reported fewer deaths (down from 178 to 12) and injuries (1,429 to 160) in violence this year.

► 'Infiltrators threat', P 18

Women clash with forces, 40 wounded

At least 40 people were wounded Tuesday during a clash between security forces and women protesters in Kangpokpi district of Manipur after a bid to dismantle what residents termed as "community bunkers" in Saibol-Twining area. Security sources said these were used by gunmen for attacks. P18

Cong: Why can't PM go to state, apologise?

After the Manipur CM's apology, Congress asked why PM Modi couldn't go to the state and do the same. "He has deliberately avoided visiting the state since May 4, 2023, even as he jets around the country and the world," Congress's Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. P1

Pocso invoked 8 yrs after FIR, HC calls it 'shameful'

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat high court called "prima facie strange and also shameful" invocation of charges under Pocso Act in a case of sexual offence against a minor, eight years after FIR was lodged and trial was nearing completion.

The case is from Mehsana town, north Gujarat, where a 15-year-old lodged a complaint against four people for outraging her modesty in Jan 2016. The accused were charged under IPC provisions, but the fact that the survivor was a minor was overlooked.

► 'Casual approach', P 12

IN THE COURTS

► Delhi court grants bail in a case of causing grievous hurt, says **accused joined probe when called** and could not be arrested without specific recorded reason | P 6

► K'taka HC stays probe against IIM-B faculty members in case of **bias** alleged by Dalit associate professor | P 11

► K'taka pvt bus passenger to be paid over ₹1 lakh for 'mental agony, hardship & financial loss' he suffered due to **bug bites** on a journey in 2022 | P 8

PM: Will work harder on Viksit Bharat dream

New Delhi: PM Modi welcomed the new year by saying "we are determined to work even harder in 2025 and realise our dream of a Viksit Bharat". He will chair the first Cabinet meeting of 2025, and that of the Cabinet Committee on Security, Wednesday, the first day of the new year, and some important decisions are likely to be taken, sources said. On a video post by MyGovIndia on X, Modi said, "Collective efforts and transformative outcomes! 2024 has been marked by many feats which have been wonderfully summed up in this video."

► **Infra boost, P 18**

MAGA hardliners now target OPT for int'l students

MAGA nativists are taking aim at the OPT (Optional Practical Training) programme that helps foreign students and graduates, many from India, stay back in the US to gain work experience, even as the optics surrounding the H-1B guest worker visa is changing rapidly, reports **Chidanand Rajghatta**.

After a fierce campaign against the H-1B visa programme, hardliners are putting the OPT programme, seen as a precursor to H-1B, under the lens. Foreign students who come to the US on an F1 visa are eligible to participate in OPT after the first academic year and remain in the US — for up to 3 years in case of STEM grads — to gain work experience. P20

Kejriwal launches 'registrations' for priest scheme

Performs Puja At Temple, Celebrates Mahant's Birthday

New Delhi: AAP's national convenor Arvind Kejriwal launched registrations for the 'Pujari-Granthi Samman Yojana' at Marghat Wale Baba Hanuman Mandir, near ISBT, Tuesday along with his wife Sunita Kejriwal, who performed puja at the temple, reports **Abhinav Rajput**. He had announced the "guarantee" of a month-long allowance of Rs 18,000 for priests and granthis Monday if AAP returned to office.

In a coincidence, it was the birthday of the mahant at the temple. "I also celebrated his birthday with him."

'Biwi bhaag jayegi': Adani's take on work-life balance

Ahmedabad: Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani has offered a humorous take on the much-debated subject of work-life balance that has been raging on in the Indian corporate world. Insisting that enjoying one's work is essential to achieving work-life balance, Adani quipped in a media interview, "*Aath ghanta family ke saath bitayega toh biwi bhaag jaayegi* (Wife will run away if eight hours are spent with family)."

Adani said work-life balance is a matter of personal choice. "Your idea of work-life balance should not be imposed

BJP slams Kejriwal: He's 'chunavi Hindu'

On AAP's outreach to priests, Delhi BJP accused former CM Kejriwal of embracing Hinduism only during elections, labelling him a "chunavi Hindu". VHP also alleged that the move was a ploy to garner electoral support by exploiting religious sentiments. P4

The BJP tried its best to stop the registrations today but no one can stop a devotee from meeting his god," said Kejriwal on X.

Meanwhile, CM Atishi visited Gurdwara Sahib in Karol Bagh for beginning registration of granthis and prayed for "landslide victory" for AAP in assembly polls.

► **'People protested', P 4**

Your work and life are balanced when you do things that you like doing. For us, it is either family or work; we don't have a world other than that.

—Gautam Adani

on me and my idea shouldn't be imposed on you. Say, someone spends 4 hours with family and finds joy in it, or if someone else spends 8 hours and enjoys it, that is their work-life balance..." TNN

► **NRN suggestion, P 18**

T2 likely to be shut in April for a few months

GI Airport's T2 is likely to be closed for a few months around April 2025, when the ongoing repair and restoration of T1 — a part of which collapsed last June — is complete and it finally starts getting fully utilised, reports **Saurabh Sinha**. Sources said the repair at T2 involves "minor" work in the building and more on the apron side that should take four-five months. P2

UP man lynched on suspicion of cow slaughter

A 37-year-old man from UP's Moradabad was beaten by cow vigilantes of a right-wing outfit for allegedly slaughtering a cow. The incident was reported from Moradabad's Majhola around 3.30am on Monday. The victim, Shahdeen Qureshi, died a few hours later. A purported video of the attack was circulated online — mostly by the vigilantes — on Tuesday. P11

Death for nurse: India 'extending all possible help'

With Yemen having upheld the death sentence awarded earlier to a Kerala nurse, Indian govt said it's extending all possible help to Nimisha Priya. "We are aware of the sentencing of Ms. Nimisha Priya in Yemen. We understand that the family of Ms. Priya is exploring relevant options. The govt is extending all possible help in the matter," said the MEA in a statement. P10





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2 Teaspoons Sugar = 1 km Walk



Raisina Bengali School marks 100-year milestone | 6



TIMES CITY

283

DELHI AQI ON TUESDAY (POOR CATEGORY)

DJB plans technical audit for sewage systems | 6



At 5,213MW, peak power demand at new Dec high

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The plummeting temperature in Delhi has raised power demand to new heights, with Tuesday clocking a peak of 5,213MW, the highest ever for Dec, discom officials said. For the first time in Delhi's history, the peak power demand in Dec crossed the 5,000MW mark on Monday.

According to State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC), the demand stood at 5,213MW at 10.50am on Tuesday, after touching 5,046MW on Monday. Delhi's peak power demand in Dec was 4,884MW in 2023 and 4,964MW in 2022, discom officials said.

The winter months in Delhi are expected to follow the record-breaking summer trend in the peak power demand, which reached an unprecedented peak of 8,656MW this year. Forecasts from SLDC indicate that Delhi's peak power demand this winter could surpass 6,000MW, setting a new seasonal high, officials said.

"Last winter, the peak hit 5,816MW, marking the highest level recorded in the national capital. Within BRPL and BYPL areas, winter peaks previously hit 2,529MW and 1,210MW, respectively. This winter, they are projected to exceed 2,600MW for BRPL and 1,240MW for BYPL," said a BSES official.

Tata Power-DDL said it successfully met this winter season's peak power demand of 1,646MW on Tuesday without any power outage or network constraint.

A senior discom official said the increase was due to decreased temperatures, and around 50% of the load was heating load, which meant an increased number of people were using geysers and heaters. BSES discom officials said they focusing on strategic power planning, precise demand forecasting, and maintaining a robust distribution network.

On New Year's Day, Expect Cold Day To Give City A Miss

AQI Dips To Poor From Moderate, Fog Likely For A Few Days

Priyanka Agarwal
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New Delhi: Parts of Delhi reeled under cold day conditions on the last day of the year. As wind speed reduced, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) worsened from 173 in the moderate category on Monday to 283 in the poor category on Tuesday.

The maximum temperature at Safdarjung, which is the city's base station, was 17.7 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal. At 14.3 degrees Celsius, six degrees below normal, Narela recorded the lowest maximum temperature.

Several areas recorded 'cold day' to 'severe cold day' for the second consecutive day on Tuesday. India Meteorological Department considers a cold day when the minimum temperature is below 10.1 degrees Celsius and the departure of maximum temperature from normal is 4.5 degrees or above. A severe cold day is declared when the departure of maximum temperature from normal is 6.5 degrees or above.

The criteria for a cold day was not met at Safdarjung on Tuesday, but four stations recorded it. While Narela (14.3) and Najafgarh (14.5) reeled under severe cold day conditions, Palam and Pusa witnessed a cold day with maximum temperatures settling at 14.9 and 15.3 degrees Celsius, respectively.

"Winds are expected to rise to 25-35 kmph during the daytime on Wednesday. Cold day conditions are unlikely on Wednesday, as the maximum temperature may see a slight rise," said a Met official.

The minimum temperature at Safdarjung was 9.6 degrees Celsius, three degrees below normal. It was 10.3 degrees Celsius a day earlier. However, Ayanagar witnessed

AIR QUALITY WON'T GET BETTER SOON

Stations where cold day to severe cold day were recorded on Tuesday

Locations & maximum temperatures (°C)

Narela	14.3
Najafgarh	14.5
Palam	14.9
Pusa	15.3



Photo: Rakesh Mehra

WHAT IS A COLD DAY?

Cold day Minimum temperature below 10.1°C and maximum temperature 4.5°C or more below normal

Severe cold day Maximum temperature 6.5°C or more below normal

> Cold day to severe cold day conditions were observed at isolated areas for second consecutive day on Tuesday



> The maximum temperature at Safdarjung was 17.7°C — 3°C below normal



> AQI deteriorated from 173 (moderate) on Monday to 283 (poor) on Tuesday



> Delhi's air quality is expected to remain in the poor category until Jan 2



the lowest minimum in the city at 6.6 degrees Celsius.

The winter chill has intensified in the city following the recent rain. Several northern states are reeling under a cold wave with snowfall continuing in the hill regions.

In Delhi, the last month of 2024 (till Dec 30) recorded the lowest mean maximum temperature at 22.8 degrees Celsius in three years. The last time the city recorded a lower average maximum temperature than this was in Dec 2021 at 22.4 degrees Celsius.

The Met department has

predicted that the maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 17 and 8 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. "A western disturbance is expected to impact the region from Jan 2-3 and the minimum temperature is likely to rise again," said an official.

IMD has predicted that shallow to moderate fog is likely over the next few days. The minimum temperature may reach around 11 degrees Celsius on Jan 4 and 5, while the maximum temperature may rise to 16 degrees Celsius over the next few days.

According to Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, which is the forecasting body under the union ministry of earth sciences, the air quality is likely to remain in the poor range till Jan 2, but it may deteriorate to the very poor category on Jan 3.

An AQI reading of 50 or below is classified as good, while readings between 51 and 100 fall in the satisfactory category, and those between 101 and 200 are classified as moderate. Poor air ranges from 201 to 300, very poor from 301 to 400, and severe from 401 to 500.

Annual AQI avg is worse than 2023, same as 2022

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The average Air Quality Index (AQI) was 209 in 2024, which was worse than in 2023 when it was 204. The same average AQI of 209 was also recorded in 2021 and 2022.

"Despite the vagaries of meteorology and weather conditions, the average AQI for 2024 has been the second best, at par with 2021 and 2022, barring the Covid year," said Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in a statement on Tuesday.

The average AQI was 225 in 2018, 215 in 2019, 185 in 2020, and 209 in 2021 and 2022.

TOI reported on Tuesday that Dec 2024 was the cleanest ever, but the average AQI of 209 in 2024, tied with two other years, was the worst AQI since 2019. No good air day (when AQI is below 51) was recorded in the city in 2024.

CAQM said continual, concerted, and persistent efforts of all the stakeholders throughout the year in 2024 further helped to improve the general air quality in Delhi, as is evident from a record 209 days during 2024 with the AQI falling below 200. In contrast, the number of days when AQI was below 200 were 197 in 2021, 183 in 2022, and 206 in 2023.

"With persistent field-level efforts and targeted policy initiatives for quantified results in the short, medium, and long term, it is expected that the air quality scenario over Delhi will see further gradual but marked improvement, year on year," said CAQM.

CAQM said the year 2024 also witnessed a record low level of episodic events of farm burnings during paddy harvesting season. Number of farm fires recorded during the paddy harvest season 2024 were 10,909 in Punjab, 1,406 in Haryana and a total of 12,750 including NCR areas of UP, Rajasthan and Delhi.

T2 may be closed for repair once T1 ready around April

Saurabh Sinha
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New Delhi: The 1986-era terminal 2 (T2) of Indira Gandhi International Airport is likely to be closed for a few months around April 2025, when the ongoing repair and restoration of T1 — a part of which collapsed last June — is complete and it finally starts getting fully utilised.

While sources say the repair at T2 involves "minor" work in the building and more on the apron side that should take about four-five months, the exact timing of its reopening could well be decided on what impact the upcoming Noida International Airport (NIA) has on traffic at IGI. In the past also T2 has been mothballed at least twice as T1 and T3 were sufficient to meet the requirement.

The reason: T2 has a capacity to handle 1.5 crore passengers annually (CPA). NIA at Jewar is slated to get operational around mid-2025 with an initial capacity of 1.2 CPA. Unlike Mumbai where the megapolis' CSMIA is already handling passengers beyond its capacity and the Navi Mumbai Airport — which also opens around the same time as NIA — will get all additional flights, Noida Airport

is getting operational when IGI still has a long way to go before it gets saturated. So the impact NIA has on its traffic is being keenly watched by Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) on both its passenger and cargo. It will accordingly determine the timing of the final stage of IGI-A's development — demolishing T2 to make way for a much larger T4 with a capacity of 4 CPA in its place.

"Repair at T1 has begun and is expected to be over by April. A few days after that happens and the expanded T1 is put to 100% use, T2 will be shut for repairs on the building and apron side. There could be a time lag between the two events to factor in any teething troubles at T1, which will be fully operational for the first time after its expansion work is completed," say people in the know.

The revamped T1, which saw its capacity doubling to 4 CPA, was inaugurated in March and it was supposed to get fully operational within a couple of months. However, the collapse of a 2008-era canopy on June 28 saw T1 being fully set down and then only the new portion was partially opened a few months later. Now with the repair work targeted to be over by April 2025, that should finally happen this summer.



The revamped T1 at IGI Airport was inaugurated in March

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In Focus Seats With Victory Margin

'Constituencies Where Gap In 2020 Poll Was Less Than 10,000 Can Easily Be Won By Either Party'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Stakes are high for the three major political players in the upcoming assembly polls, which are likely to take place in a little over a month. The run-up to the polls has been intense so far with AAP, BJP and Congress striving to outdo each other in the campaign.

In the last two editions, AAP swept the majority vote share and comfortably won the majority of seats, and it has not allowed complacency to affect its campaign so far. While BJP is hoping to turn around its fortunes this time, Congress, which ceded its ground to AAP in the 2015 and 2020 assembly polls, is trying to regain its footing in city politics. Congress failed to win a single seat in the last two elections, and its vote share consistently fell from 40.3% in 2008, when it won 43 seats, to 24.6% in 2013, 9.7% in 2015, and 4.3% in 2020.

In its debut election in 2013, AAP won an impressive 29.5% vote share, which translated into 28 seats. However, the 2015 election proved extraordinary, with the party winning 67 of 70 seats with a vote share of 54.6%. In 2020, AAP's vote share fell

marginally by 1%, and it won 62 seats.

BJP polled 33.1% of votes in 2013 and won 32 seats. While its vote share dropped marginally to 32.8% in 2015, it could barely win three seats. It increased to 38.5% in 2020, and it secured eight seats.

Both AAP and BJP will be hoping to consolidate their vote share in constituencies where they received massive support while eyeing areas where the victory margin was less than 10,000 votes. There were 15 such seats in the last assembly election where the victory margin was less than 10,000, while the number of such seats was just six in the 2015 polls. There were 26 seats where the difference in votes was between 10,001 and 20,000 votes, while in 14 constituencies, the margin was between 20,001 and 30,000 votes. In 15 constituencies, the winner received more than 30,000 votes than their nearest rival, and all such seats were won by AAP.

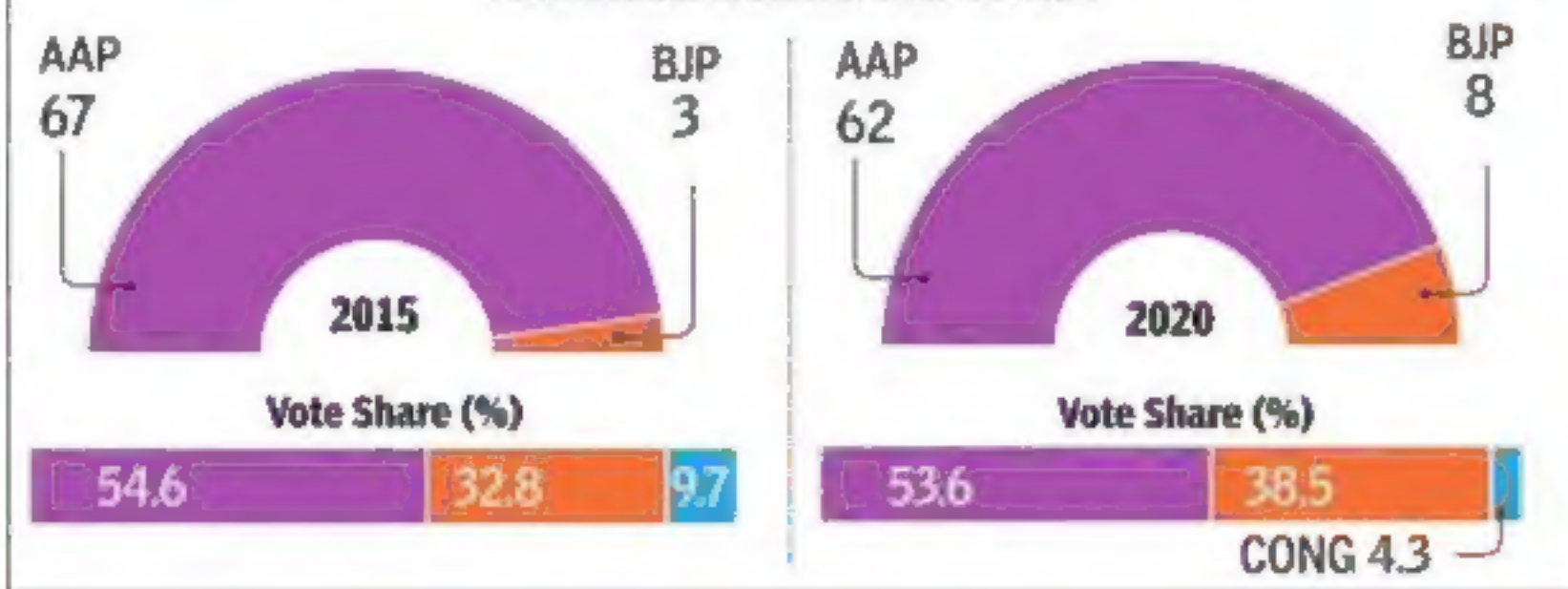
"All those seats where the margin in the last poll is less than 10,000 can easily be won by either party. That's why, apart from the usual campaign and electoral promises by the candidates, groundwork done by the party volunteers

TAKING STOCK BEFORE ASSEMBLY POLLS

WINNING MARGIN IN 2020 ASSEMBLY POLLS

Winning margin (votes)	BJP	AAP	Cong	Total
1-500	0	0	0	0
501-1,000	1	1	0	2
1001-2,000	0	1	0	1
2,001-5,000	1	5	0	6
5,001-10,000	2	4	0	6
10,001-20,000	3	23	0	26
20,001-30,000	1	13	0	14
More than 30,000	0	15	0	15

VOTE SHARE & SEATS: 2015 VS 2020



at the booth level plays a major role," said a senior AAP functionary.

"The party leadership has been in constant touch with our workers at the booth level

to ensure that our candidates get maximum votes," he added. AAP has also brought in its

best-performing campaign managers from other states to assist the volunteers in the city.

A senior BJP functionary agreed that the contest would be cut-throat in several constituencies, especially those where the victory margin was low. With Congress hoping to do better than last time, BJP functionaries said they have a fair chance of changing the outcome even in seats where AAP won with a handsome vote share in the last poll. "Since Congress and AAP share a common vote bank, improvement in the former's vote share will directly improve our chances of winning," said a BJP functionary.

In the 2020 polls, Congress contested 66 seats (four went to Rashtriya Janata Dal in a seat-sharing arrangement), and its three candidates polled more than 20,000 votes, while five got between 10,001 and 20,000 votes. While 20 candidates polled 5,001-10,000 votes, 38 were reduced to less than 5,000.

"We will not only impact the outcome on a few seats, but our candidates will also win this time in several constituencies. The result this time will be surprising in Delhi," said a Congress functionary.

BJP cites old videos, calls Kejriwal 'chunavi Hindu', AAP says it's rattled after priest plan

Abhinav Rajput@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Delhi BJP on Tuesday released a series of old videos featuring past speeches by former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and other AAP functionaries, accusing them of questioning the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and having contradictory stands on issues related to Hindus.

Purported clips of AAP leaders Sanjay Singh and Manish Sisodia supporting the Shaheen Bagh protests and making controversial remarks about Hindu deities were also shared. BJP leaders claimed these speeches exposed AAP's "anti-Hindu" stance.

Hitting back, AAP claimed, "BJP is rattled because Arvind Kejriwal has announced Rs 18,000 per month honorarium for pujaris and granthis, for which the registration process commenced today."

"Instead of hurling abuses at Kejri-

Sachdeva said that Delhi's temple priests were well aware that BJP was their 'own pious party, always standing by them in times of joy and sorrow'

wal morning and evening, BJP should focus on working for the people and, learning from him, implement similar provisions for pujaris and granthis in their 20 states where it governs," it stated.

After playing the videos at a press briefing, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that these "exposed Kejriwal's opportunistic stance on religion, revealing his fake attempts to glorify Hinduism during elections".

"A person who questions the existence of Lord Ram can never be a true proponent of Hindu nationalism. He is built on lies, deceit and manipulation," he alleged.

Sachdeva further called Kejriwal a "chunavi Hindu". "As elections draw closer, Kejriwal suddenly remembers temple priests... But Delhi residents understand that Kejriwal represents lies," he said.

Sachdeva was referring to Kejriwal's announcement of the "Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana", offering Rs 18,000 monthly honorarium for temple priests and gurdwara granthis if AAP wins the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls.

The Delhi BJP president alleged that "Kejriwal repeatedly dis honoured the Hindu community, glorified anti-national elements, and is not only an enemy of Sanatan Dharma but also of the nation's security. Expecting Delhi's prosperity under him is futile".

Sachdeva said Delhi's temple priests were aware that BJP was their "own pious party, always standing by them in times of joy and sorrow, and it is the only party that will respect them and their families."

VHP alleges AAP exploiting religious sentiments for votes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Criticising AAP's promise to provide salaries to priests and granthis in the city, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Tuesday alleged that the move was a ploy to garner electoral support by exploiting religious sentiments.

"When their promise to provide salaries to imams did not work effectively, they have now set a trap to lure Hindu priests and granthis," VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal said. He pointed to unfulfilled promises and said benefits assured to religious figures had gone unpaid for the past year and a half, with no clarity on arrears.

Former Delhi chief mini-

ster Arvind Kejriwal announced on Monday that if AAP returned to office, temple priests and gurdwara granthis will receive a monthly salary of Rs 18,000.

Bansal accused AAP of using public funds for political gain and said, "They act as if they are giving from their own pockets, whereas the truth is that the hard-earned money of the public is being squandered for their political daydreams." He urged the Election Commission to investigate what he termed "manipulative schemes" designed to deceive voters in the national capital.

"The EC should take note of this deceit, greed and manipulative schemes being spread by these politicians and political parties in the capital," Bansal said.

Ordinary people unhappy, protested against ex-CM: BJP

Continued from P1

Kejriwal had announced that he would be visiting the Hanuman Temple at Connaught Place but changed the venue at the last minute. The mahant's birthday was cited as the reason.

At the Connaught Place temple, tensions had escalated between AAP and BJP supporters who had gathered in close proximity. While one group chanted "Phir layenge Kejriwal", the other responded with "Gali gali me shor hai, Kejriwal chor hai".

BJP, however, distanced itself from the protesters, describing them as ordinary citizens expressing dissatisfaction with Kejriwal's administration and viewing his actions as mere electoral promises.

"Will abusing me benefit the nation? Since the announcement of the 'Pujari-Granthi Samman Yojana', BJP leaders have been hurling abuses at me," said Kejriwal in his post on X. "My question to them is will abusing me benefit the nation? Your party governs 20 states, including Gujarat, where you've ruled for 30 years. Why haven't you honoured pujaris and granthis there? Start now, I have shown you the way. Instead of abusing me, implement this scheme across your states so that everyone benefits," he said.

Chief minister Atishi, who had gone to the gurdwara, said, "During registration, granthis blessed Arvind Kejriwal and me, saying this

is the first time since Maharaja Ranjit Singh that a govt has thought of granthis."

"Pujaris and granthis are with us through life's joys and sorrows. It is the govt's duty to care for them, which is why this scheme was launched."

AAP's Delhi convener and cabinet minister Gopal Rai, who visited temple pujaris in Vijay Park, said: "This reflects months of deliberation and fulfils long-standing aspirations. AAP's is the first govt to publicly commit to providing a monthly honorarium of 18,000 to all pujaris and granthis."

BJP has questioned the move. Party MP from South Delhi Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said Kejriwal is often asked that when imams are paid salaries, why have pujaris and granthis been ignored. Kejriwal has announced this scheme only to avoid this question, said the MP. "Just as bogus registrations are being done for Mahila Samman Yojana and Sanjeevani Yojana, registration has been announced for this scheme as well," he said.

BJP's New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj said, "Why is Kejriwal making promises? If he truly wants to help priests and granthis, he should immediately hold a cabinet meeting and provide them a benefit of 18,000. After all, it's his government."

"He is making election promises for priests, but the imams, for whom salaries were declared earlier, have not been paid for the past 17 months," she claimed.



Atishi, who went to a gurdwara for registration, said this was the first time since Maharaja Ranjit Singh that a govt had thought of granthis

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. from the reputed, bonafide, financially sound & experienced agency/firm for the work of "WORKS RELATED TO PWSS" against following NIT No.: 31/ALD/2024-25. Last date of submission for tender is 14/01/2025 upto 02:00 p.m. Details may be viewed in the website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> website. ICA-124365(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Midnapore Division, P.H.E. Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. PHE/MID/eNIT-14/2024-25 and ID-2024-PHE/791551-1 to 7 for Sinking of T/W Construction of boundary wall, pump house laying distribution & rising main pipeline etc. different PWSS under Midnapore Division, P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website: www.wbtpenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 17.01.2025 upto 18:00 hours. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Midnapore Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124373(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Electrical Division, Berhampore P.H.E. Dte. vide Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/ME/2024-25 and Tender ID-2024-PHE/789457-1 to 19 for Electro-Mechanical Works for all West Bengal in different W/S. Scheme. Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online): 22.01.2025 upto 3:00 P.M. Date of opening of technical proposal (online): 24.01.2025 upto 3:00 P.M. NB: All others of the above NIT no. remain unchanged. All details can be seen from the website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> & www.wbtpenders.gov.in ICA-124373(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Director, IPGME&SSKM Hospital, Kolkata-700020 having its office at 244, A.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700020 is inviting e-tender for purchase certain equipments for Neonatology and Neurosurgery departments, 55KM Hospital. Tender ID-2024-PHE/792447-1. For details log on to www.wbtpenders.gov.in ICA-124373(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Sd/- Director IPGME&SSKM Kolkata-20 ICA-124369(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
TENDER ID-2024-PHE/791232-1 to 4 (JIM Work)
Electronic Notice Inviting Tender No. 22/WBPHED/EE/BD-1/2024-25. Last date of Documents download/Soft closing date (Online) is on 15.01.2025 upto 01:00 P.M. Date of opening of Technical Proposals (Online) on 17.01.2025 at 03:00 P.M. Further details will be available in our website: www.wbtpenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Berhampore Division-I, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124373(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, P.H.E. Dte. for NIT No. WBPHED/EE/19/HUG/2024-25 related to miscellaneous works at various PWSS under Hooghly Division P.H.E. Dte. Bid submission Closing Date: 16.01.2025 upto 03:00 p.m. & Opening Date: 18.01.2025 upto 03:00 p.m. For Details, corrigendum/addendum, participating in the tender login to: www.wbtpenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124369(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, P.W.D. Inviting online e-tender for the work of "Emergent installation of Tube Well at Rampurhat Sub-Division office, PWD in the District of Birbhum under Birbhum Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25." Bid submission start date (online) 10.12.2024 after 5:30 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 13.01.2025 upto 2:00 P.M. Tender ID-2024-WBPWD/792448-1. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be viewed in the website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, P.W.D. ICA-124369(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. on behalf of Governor, West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/NIT-85/AD/2024-2025 and Tender ID-2024-PHE/790304-1 to 3 for Construction of switch room cum chlorine room including Sanitary arrangement as per departmental drawing at the site of Matherghati W/S Scheme (Zone-II), Block-Canning-II under Canning Sub-Div. Of Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website: www.wbtpenders.gov.in. The last date for submission of tender is 17.01.2025 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124364(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting e-Quotation
No. WBPD/55/EE/HR/EE-MQ-03/2024-25, 2nd Recall
(Tender ID-2024-WBPWD/792615-1) The Ex. Engr, Birbhum Divn., P.W. (S.D.) Dte. invites online tenders from Bonafide resourceful outsider having credential in similar nature of work for Providing Unarmed trained security guard for guarding round the clock (one guard at a time) for office premises of the 1) E.E. Br. Dn., PWSS Dte., A.E., B.C. A., PWSS Dte., B.S.D.-II, PWSS Dte., at Tilpara, Suri 2) A.E., B.S.D.-III, PWSS Dte. at Bolpur 3) A.E., R.S.D., PWSS Dte. at Rampurhat throughout the year in the District of Birbhum. Bid submission Closing on 18.01.2025, 02:00 P.M. Further details can be seen in website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> Sd/- Ex. Engr., Birbhum Divn., P.W. (S.D.) Dte. ICA-124369(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. on behalf of Governor, West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/NIT-84/AD/2024-2025 and Tender ID-2024-PHE/790197-1 to 3 for Construction of pipe carrying structure with laying, restoration work, construction of pump house and Pipeline Mega Surface Water Based W/S Scheme for Falta-Mathurapur, District South 24 Parganas under Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website: www.wbtpenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 17.01.2025 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124369(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR&DD. e-NIT
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal the Executive Engineer (A-I), Krishnagar (A-I) Division, Krishnagar, Hooghly invite e-NIT vide No. WRDDE/AA/JHY/23/224-25 of E.E. (A-I) Division, (A-I) Division, Tender ID-2024-WRDD/792961-1 to 6 consisting of different group in e-tender from the experienced and bonafide resourceful construction firm for the work of Pipeline under Core-Sector Programme within Hooghly district. Values of works up to Rs. 21,52,431.00. Last Date of Online submission: 15.01.2025 upto 11 A.M. Details may be seen in the website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> office Notice Board. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I), Krishnagar (A-I) Division, Krishnagar (A-I) Division, ICA-124369(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice
Executive Engineer, Kolkata South Division, Inviting e-tender for the work of "Installation of Tube Well at Rampurhat Sub-Division office, PWD in the District of Birbhum under Birbhum Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25." Bid submission start date (online) 10.12.2024 after 5:30 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 13.01.2025 upto 2:00 P.M. Tender ID-2024-WBPWD/792448-1. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be viewed in the website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, P.W.D. ICA-124369(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24 Parganas Division, P.H.E. Dte. vide Ref. No. 39/2024-2025/EE/SWD/1/WBPHED and ID-2024-PHE/791210-1 to 6 for Sinking of Rig bored deep tubewell. Laying of additional pipeline for parallel connections from main pipeline and Construction of Boundary wall etc. in different blocks under SWD, P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> The last date for submission of tender is 15/01/2025 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, South 24 Parg. W/S Division-I, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124373(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, PWD, Alipurdia Division invites online e-tender for the work of - Kumargang-Joral Road from 23.10 km to 23.30 km repairing by patch block under Alipurdia Division, PWD in the district of Alipurdia during the year 2024-25. Tender ID-2024-WBPWD/792425-1. Estimated Amount: 40,09,236.00, NIT No. 22 of 2024-25 of EE/PWD/APD, Bid submission start date (online) 03.01.2025 from 02:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 17.01.2025 upto 04:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT & Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, PWD, Alipurdia Division. ICA-124352(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Hooghly Construction Division invites online e-Tender for the work of 1. Patch Repairing work at Kotulpur Arambagh Road from ch. 42.00 km to ch. 54.00 km (excluding 2 nos. rigid Pavement Stretches) in different stretches under Hooghly Construction Sub-Division-I, Arambagh under Hooghly Construction Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25. Estimated Amount: 71,177.00, Tender ID-2024-PWD/792410-1. NIT No. 1/WBPHED/EE/HCD/NIT-26 of 2024-2025 of EE/PWD/APD, Bid submission start date (online) 31.12.2024 from 11:00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 20.01.2025 upto 2:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and tender documents may be downloaded from: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> Sd/- S. Roy Prathar, Executive Engineer, PWD, Hooghly Construction Division, Chawkbazar, Hooghly ICA-124359(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR&DD. e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-I), Krishnagar-I (A-I) Division, WRDD invites e-tender for following Works, Repairing & Re-laying of Submersible Electric Motor Pump Set and maintenance of pump house, spout channel with pipe line etc. under Krishnagar-I (A-I) Division within the jurisdiction of Krishnagar-I (A-I) Division. NIT No. WRDDE/AA/JHY/23/224-25 of E.E. (A-I) Division, (A-I) Division, Tender ID-2024-WRDD/792961-1 to 2. Total estimated amount up to tender to Rs. 10,924.44 lakh approx. Last dropping date 10.01.2025 up to 15:00 & 14:00 hour. Interested bidders are requested to visit the website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> for details. Sd/- T.N. ROY Executive Engineer (A-I) Krishnagar-I (A-I) Division, Krishnagar ICA-124377(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
NIT-24 of 2024-25 EE/NMD-II Ref. Tender ID-2024-PHE/792794-1 Sealed NIT in WBF No.2911 is invited by EE/NMD-II, PHE Dte., for Deployment of external technical assistance agency for P3A4 Raterail. The date of work will be available at website www.wbtpenders.gov.in and www.wbtpenders.gov.in The last date of closing of tender on 13.01.2025 upto 2:00 P.M. Sd/- EE/NMD-II, PHE Dte. ICA-124391(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Nadia Arsenic Division-I, P.H.E. Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHED/13/NAD-I of 24-25, ID-2024-PHE/791494-1 to 9 for Works under Nadia Arsenic Division-I, P.H.E. Dte., Kalyani, Nadia. Details will be available in the website: www.wbtpenders.gov.in The last date for online submission of tender is 13.01.2025 at 12:00 P.M. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Nadia Arsenic Division-I, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124373(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR&DD. e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-I) Burdwan (A-I) Division, WRDD invites e-tender for following work: "Installation of SASTHITAL New Major Handed Over RLI Scheme at Kanksa block Mouza-Kudusa under Durgapur (A-E) Sub-Division, under Core-Sector Programme under E.E. (A-I) Burdwan (A-I) Division", vide e-NIT No. 15/WRDD/EE/AMJ/BURDWAN/AMJ/2024-25 of 2024-25 and Tender ID-2024-WRDD/792602-1. Tendered value of Rs. 72,47,525 Lakh and Installation of RUPGANGA New Mid-Handed Over RLI Scheme at Kanksa block Mouza-Kudusa under Durgapur (A-E) Sub-Division of Paschim Bardhaman District under Core-Sector prog under E.E. (A-I) Burdwan (A-I) Division, vide e-NIT No. 15/WRDD/EE/AMJ/BURDWAN/AMJ/2024-25 and Tender ID-2024-WRDD/792546-1. Tendered value of Rs. 43,97,945 Lakh. Bid Submission End Date: 20.01.2025 at 15:00 Hrs Respectively. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT & Tender documents may be downloaded to visit the website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> for details. Executive Engineer (A-I) Burdwan (A-I) Division ICA-124373(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE, PHE DTE. NUALAY, PLOT NO. CN-8, SEC-V, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA-700091.
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Ref. No.: WBPHED/EE/EC/EE-NIT-58/2024-25
Tender ID: 2024-PHE/799326-1, 2024-PHE/789326-2 & 2024-PHE/789326-3
e-Tenders in WBF 2911 are invited for the work- SL-1: Laying of distribution system including providing FHIT at left out households for Mobarakpur (Mouza-Balarampur, Bhatripur, Haripur, Mobarakpur) W/S Scheme at Tahatta-1 block. SL-2: Laying of distribution system including providing FHIT at left out households for Bahadurpur, Khaspur, Dhopahat and Rajapur W/S Scheme and restoration of the damaged portion of roads. SL-3: Augmentation of Khaspur (next) water supply scheme with respective manifold arrangements with reconnection as well as adjoining mousas (if applicable) under Tahatta-1 Block in Nadia District under Nadia Arsenic Civil Division-II, P.H.E. Dte. (SI No 1 to 3) & Corrigendum Uploaded. Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): 24.01.2025 at 02:00 p.m. Further details are available in the website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124377(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 40/BD of 2024-25
Vide Memo No.3665/BD dt.24.12.2024 Tender ref. No. 3665, BD, Ref. No. 40 of 2024-25 Tender ID-2024-PHE/790211-1 to 7
Tender invited by the undersigned for Different types of Additional Laying of UPVC distribution pipe line, Providing FHIT for the left out portion, protection works, Emergent withdrawing, relaying and laying of different dia. UPVC/DI pipe line and other allied works in connection with Augmentation of Khulna Bunderkhali (Z-II), Fakirzila, Tushkhali, Boyermari Abad, Chotto Seha, Sukhdoan & Malancha W/S scheme (Z-II), w/s scheme in different Block under Hasnabad Sub-Division, under Barasat Division, P.H.E. Dte. (SI-1 to 7) Closing date of submission of both technical and Financial bid (online)-31.01.2025 at 1:00 P.M. Details of tender documents and its related corrigendum/Addendum (if any) may be obtained from the office of to be Executive Engineer, Barasat Division, P.H.E. Dte. On working days during office hours or in website: <http://www.wbtpenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Barasat Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124363(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT is hereby invited by Assistant Engineer, Howrah Sadar Sub-Division, P.H.E. Dte. vide Ref. No. 1346/HSSD, Dt. 26/12/2024. Details will be available in the website: www.wbtpenders.gov.in and www.wbtpenders.gov.in Last date of application is 10/01/2025. Sd/- for Assistant Engineer, Howrah Sadar Sub-Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-124373(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PW/RD TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 21 of 2024-25 of EE

‘Bangladesh Cells’ Back To Tackle Illegal Immigration

Was Defunct For Over A Decade, 50 People Deported In 2024

Rajshekhhar Jha & Abhay | TNN

New Delhi: Two decades ago, police brass had initiated a hunt for cops who knew how to speak Bengali. These policemen were then placed in a cell that was to mingle with residents of particular localities and gather intelligence about illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. The recent drive against illegal immigrants has led Delhi Police to revive its “Bangladesh Cells”, which have been defunct over the last decade or more.

Established by a former police commissioner in the early 2000s, these cells were constituted in every police district of Delhi with the primary objective of identifying and tracking down Bangladeshi nationals residing illegally in Delhi. At the time, thousands of such immigrants were traced and deported by the cops of these cells through the Foreign Regional Registration Office.

Years later, the exercise has recommenced with many districts forming similar teams informally called “Foreigner Deportation Cells”. A few districts have just revived the old unit, sources said.

“These cells typically consist of 5-10 police personnel, preferably those who can speak Bangla, and are led by either an inspector or a sub-inspector. The help of Assamese-Bengali cops is being solicited,” explained a senior cop.

“There are some notable differences in pronunciation, vocabulary and expressions. The Bengali spoken in Bangladesh has a distinct accent and phonetic variations. Additionally, idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms vary. The challenge is to identify these, and cops who even have basic knowledge of the language have an edge,” the officer added.

Police sources said that they visit slums, labour camps and unauthorised colonies where illegal migrants are likely to be present. The exercise, which starts in the morning, goes on till late evening. “The language helps us understand what the person being verified is saying. It aids in establishing communication and also ensures that no wrong person is deported,” they added.

Currently, the manpower allocation in these cells varies. In some districts, the cell has only two policemen, while others have more than 10 cops. A few districts have roped in policemen from units like anti-aircraft and anti-aircraft units. “All resources are being judiciously utilised,” said a senior officer.

The focus is to identify, detain and repatriate individuals residing without valid Indian documents. The cops from the unit are sensitising local informants and collecting human intelligence. The cell members also work on identifying the routes used by the illegal migrants to come to India.

“The members deploy a range of strategies to trace and investigate illegal migrants. These efforts are often conducted in collaboration with immigration authorities, local govt agencies and intelligence services,” said the officer.

“Local police officers are also roped in and directed to work with community members to spot individuals who might be staying without legal documentation,” the officer further explained.

Cops also elaborated on the hurdles these teams are facing. A major obstacle, they said, was that the illegal immigrants often destroyed their documents after entering the country. “Unlike other foreign nationals who arrive by flight and may still have their flight records, Bangladeshi nationals typically enter through porous borders, making it challenging to determine their identities and dates of entry,” said an officer.

The teams’ success ultimately depends on the response and support of their counterparts in areas like Cooch Behar, Malda, and other areas in West Bengal, which is often cited as the address by these immigrants. These teams deported around 50 “Bangladeshi nationals” in 2024.

“A few days ago, the CM said that we are taking money from the BJP. After this press conference, I will file a criminal and civil defamation case against (CM) Atishi and San-

jay Singh. I will ask for Rs 10 crore and out of that money, I will donate Rs 5 crore to Yamuna cleaning and the remaining half will be donated to clean the polluted air in Delhi,” he said.

AAP claimed that Dikshit was peddling BJP’s narrative. “That is why he turned a blind eye to former saffron party MP Parvesh Verma openly distributing black money in a cash-for-votes row. He has joined the visionless BJP in hurling abuses at Arvind Kejriwal from morning to evening,” AAP said in a statement.

In his press conference, Dikshit addressed various claims made by AAP govt on development work that it had done and alleged that the elected dispensation had misled people by “lying”. Giving examples of a few flyovers constructed in the last decade, the Congress functionary claimed that it was the Sheila Dikshit govt which actually saved money on the construction of those infrastructure

projects. He added that AAP dispensation added construction of ramps to the flyovers and small bridges over drains to increase the number of infrastructure projects undertaken by them.

“I am sorry that I am using a very strong word for the former chief minister, but he is a pathological liar,” Dikshit said.

The former MP claimed that AAP discontinued dispensaries run by previous govt to replace them with mohalla clinics and the enrolment in state-run schools increased only marginally in

the last 10 years. “When Sheila Dikshit’s govt lost in Delhi, there were 16.4 lakh students in state-run schools. Today, there are 17-18 lakh children. If enrolment increased at the pace of the Congress govt, there should have been 22-23 lakh children, which means there are four to five lakh students less in our govt schools,” Sandeep Dikshit claimed. “In education, they claimed that they have done revolutionary work in the 12th pass percentage. But the actual revolutionary work was done by the Congress govt,” he said.

Dikshit also alleged that the collection of taxes from businesses was less in comparison to other states despite Delhi being a traders’ city, and added that the growth of gross state domestic product was also not up to the mark.

He also attacked AAP govt on the supply of potable water, sewage treatment, air pollution, and pollution in the Yamuna.

“The members deploy a range of strategies to trace and investigate illegal migrants. These efforts are often conducted in collaboration with immigration authorities, local govt agencies and intelligence services,” said the officer.

“Local police officers are also roped in and directed to work with community members to spot individuals who might be staying without legal documentation,” the officer further explained.

5-10 COPS IN EACH CELL

Delhi Police has revived old cells, initially established by former police commissioner Ajay Raj Sharma, to track down illegal Bangladeshi immigrants



Cell Composition
Each cell comprises 5-10 police personnel, with a preference for officers who can speak Bengali. The teams are led by an inspector or sub-inspector

Surveillance Techniques
Deploy CCTV cameras in areas known for high concentrations of illegal migrants, including neighborhoods, markets, and construction sites

Collaboration
The cells work closely with
1 Immigration authorities
2 Local government agencies
3 Intelligence services
4 Community members

Daily Operations
Visit slums, labour camps, and unauthorised colonies to identify illegal migrants

Manpower Allocation
The number of personnel varies by district, ranging from just two officers to teams of over ten

Objective
To identify, detain, and repatriate individuals residing in India without valid documentation

Strategies
1 Gather inputs, forward them to Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO)
2 Sensitise local informants
3 Collect human intelligence
4 Identify routes used by illegal migrants

Collaboration
The cells work closely with
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Don’t demolish religious structures, says Atishi; LG’s office, BJP hit back

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Referring to decisions taken by the religious committee of Delhi govt in a meeting in Nov, chief minister Atishi has written a letter to lieutenant governor VK Saxena and urged him to stop the demolition of places of worship in the capital.

In the letter, Atishi stated that the religious committee ordered the demolition of numerous religious structures all across Delhi in a meeting held on Nov 22.

The LG’s secretariat, however, said that no file to demolish a religious structure reached it. “CM is playing cheap politics to divert attention from her own and her predecessor’s failures,” it stated.

Mentioning the addresses of six such structures, which she claimed were among those approved by the religious committee for shifting or demolition, Atishi said that until last year the decisions taken by the panel were sent for



LG Vinai Kumar Saxena

the LG’s approval via CM and minister (home), Delhi.

“As elected representatives, who are constantly in touch with the people of Delhi, we will ensure that no religious sentiments are hurt. However, in an order issued last year, your office stated that the demolition of religious structures is a matter related to ‘public order’ and does not fall under the purview of the elected govt and will be directly under the purview of LG. Since then, the work of the religious committee has been directly monitored by you,” Atishi stated in her letter.

CM’S LETTER SAYS

As elected representatives, who are constantly in touch with the people of Delhi, we will ensure that no religious sentiments are hurt

“Demolition of these structures will hurt the religious sentiments of these communities. On behalf of the people of Delhi, I would like to request you not to demolish any of these temples and places of worship in the enclosed list,” she added.

The LG’s secretariat, however, stated that neither any temple, mosque, church, nor any place of worship was being broken/demolished, nor any file to this effect had been received by it. “LG has issued strict instructions to the police to maintain extra vigilance against

Dikshit says Kejriwal misleading people on governance, AAP retorts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Sandeep Dikshit, a former Congress East Delhi MP and the party’s candidate from New Delhi in the coming assembly polls, criticised AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday for misleading the people on governance and called him a “pathological liar”.

Dikshit alleged that AAP’s claims of improving education, healthcare, water, transport and road infrastructure were all misleading and they only improved “marginally” after the work done by earlier Congress govt between 1998 and 2013.

He also said that he was going to file a criminal and civil defamation case against CM Atishi and AAP MP Sanjay Singh for alleging that he had received money from BJP.

“A few days ago, the CM said that we are taking money from the BJP. After this press conference, I will file a criminal and civil defamation case against (CM) Atishi and San-

jay Singh. I will ask for Rs 10 crore and out of that money, I will donate Rs 5 crore to Yamuna cleaning and the remaining half will be donated to clean the polluted air in Delhi,” he said.

AAP claimed that Dikshit was peddling BJP’s narrative. “That is why he turned a blind eye to former saffron party MP Parvesh Verma openly distributing black money in a cash-for-votes row. He has joined the visionless BJP in hurling abuses at Arvind Kejriwal from morning to evening,” AAP said in a statement.

In his press conference, Dikshit addressed various claims made by AAP govt on development work that it had done and alleged that the elected dispensation had misled people by “lying”. Giving examples of a few flyovers constructed in the last decade, the Congress functionary claimed that it was the Sheila Dikshit govt which actually saved money on the construction of those infrastructure

projects. He added that AAP dispensation added construction of ramps to the flyovers and small bridges over drains to increase the number of infrastructure projects undertaken by them.

“I am sorry that I am using a very strong word for the former chief minister, but he is a pathological liar,” Dikshit said.

The former MP claimed that AAP discontinued dispensaries run by previous govt to replace them with mohalla clinics and the enrolment in state-run schools increased only marginally in

the last 10 years. “When Sheila Dikshit’s govt lost in Delhi, there were 16.4 lakh students in state-run schools. Today, there are 17-18 lakh children. If enrolment increased at the pace of the Congress govt, there should have been 22-23 lakh children, which means there are four to five lakh students less in our govt schools,” Sandeep Dikshit claimed. “In education, they claimed that they have done revolutionary work in the 12th pass percentage. But the actual revolutionary work was done by the Congress govt,” he said.

Dikshit also alleged that the collection of taxes from businesses was less in comparison to other states despite Delhi being a traders’ city, and added that the growth of gross state domestic product was also not up to the mark.

He also attacked AAP govt on the supply of potable water, sewage treatment, air pollution, and pollution in the Yamuna.



Sandeep Dikshit

Deportation dagger ends Delhi life for 3 Bangla migrants after ID drive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The streets of south Delhi were his playground for years, where he operated with impunity, trafficking drugs and living a life of deception. But little did Akhtar Sheikh know, fate had other plans.

Sheikh’s journey to India began in 2004 when he crossed the border illegally. He eventually made his way to West Bengal, where he married a Hindu girl in 2012 and began building a new life. The Bangladeshi national, whose identity was not known to many, managed to blend in seamlessly with the local population.

He eventually found himself working as a labourer at a construction site in Sarojini Nagar in Delhi while peddling drugs on the side for a quick buck.

But his luck ran out on Nov 28 when he

was arrested on drug charges. He managed to secure bail, convincing the authorities that he was a resident of West Bengal, said DCP (southwest) Surendra Chaudhary.

However, the recent verification drive by Delhi Police proved to be his undoing. As the police went door-to-door, verifying the documents of residents, his cover was blown. His identity as a Bangladeshi national was revealed, and he was taken into custody on Dec 30. The police handed him over to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to be deported back to Bangladesh.

Another such story is that of Naim Khan and his mother Nazma, a Bangladeshi mother-son duo who were deported after they were found living in Delhi without valid documents.

Nazma’s journey to India began 20 ye-

ars ago when she arrived in India as a young woman, seeking a better life for herself and her family. She found work as a domestic help in Katwaria Sarai.

According to DCP Surendra Chaudhary, Nazma crossed over in 2005, and her son was all of 3 at the time. When the pandemic broke out in 2020, her son, Naim, was 18. He decided to come to India too. Nazma had already built a life for herself in Delhi and agreed to Naim joining her. The thought of seeing her son after so many years was overwhelming.

Once here, Naim even found work as a labourer, and they were able to send some money back to their family in Bangladesh. However, their secret life was eventually discovered during a verification drive conducted by the Southwest district police. They were detained and deported to Bangladesh.

I love Delhi! Revamp step for Pusa Rd roundabout



The sign was put up as part of a tourism promotion event at certain locations with high footfall

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Public Works Department (PWD) is planning to start beautification of the traffic island at the Pusa Road roundabout in Karol Bagh that carries a big ‘I Love Delhi’ sign.

The sign was put up as part of a tourism promotion event at certain locations with high footfall where people would like to take selfies.

This spot, however, turned into a homeless shelter, and the sign was partially damaged. PWD’s plan is to dismantle the damaged tiles and kerb stones and lay fresh concrete and red sandstone tiles.

The Chaudhary Brahmin Prakash Chowk, named after the first chief minister of Delhi, also known as the Pusa Road roundabout junction, is linked to Shankar Road, Pusa Road, KS Krishna Marg, Main Patel Nagar Road, and Dev Prakash Shastri Marg. Hence, the island sees heavy traffic.

Pusa Road has a number of commercial establishments and residential areas and is highly congested. It has three metro stations: Jhandewalan, Karol Bagh and Rajendra Place. Last year, PWD had planned to deconstruct the spot. A feasibility test is being done to know the impact of constructing a flyover or an underpass

near the roundabout so that the vehicle load is reduced.

Delhi govt is also working in a phased manner to strengthen the five roads. Given that these roads were made long ago, they need maintenance.

PWD will also carry out maintenance of pavements, central verges and service lanes of the entire road stretch. Lane marking, whitewashing of parapet walls, painting of kerb stones and railings will be done by govt. Horticulture work will be done to spruce up the road. With the aim to eliminate any dark spots on the road, any streetlights that are not functioning will be fixed, officials said.

Complaint filed against 7 for forging papers to get voter ID

New Delhi: Delhi’s poll body filed a police complaint against seven people for allegedly forging identification documents to obtain voter ID card ahead of the assembly elections in Feb.

The office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on Tuesday said it had requested lodging of FIRs against two individuals in Bindapur of southwest district and four others in Dwarka. Another an FIR was registered against one person in Narela zone, according to the poll body.

The complaint said, “Certain applicants have submitted online applications for voter registration using fraudulent means, including uploading tampered documents as part of their applications for new voter registration.”

It further alleged that the applicants attempted to deceive authorities by providing falsified documents, particularly tampered Aadhaar cards, as proof of residence. “This constitutes a serious offence as the applicants intentionally provided false information and documents to manipulate the electoral roll. Such activities are prohibited under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and other relevant laws, which stipulate penalties for those found guilty,” the complaint said.

The electoral body emphasised the need for prompt action to probe these cases and prevent further fraudulent activities. 61

Our Strength & Inspiration

With profound grief and sorrow, we mourn the sad demise of our beloved

Smt. Urmila Dhanuka

(15.08.1951 - 31.12.2024)

Antim Yatra
from residence
10:00 AM

01.01.2025
Wednesday

Final Rites at
Nigambodh Ghat, Delhi
11:30 AM

Grief Stricken
Dr. R.G. Agarwal (Husband)

Satyanarain Agarwal (Brother in law)
Lalita Dhanuka (Sister in law)

Mahendra Kumar Dhanuka (Brother in law)
Uma Dhanuka (Sister in law)

Rahul Dhanuka (Son)
Madhuri Dhanuka (Daughter in law)
Shashwat & Shailja (Grand children)

Rashmi Gupta (Daughter)
Amit Gupta (Son in law)
Vedang & Aayushi (Grand children)

Residence
314A, The Camellias,
DLF Golf Course, Sector 42, Gurugram, Haryana

R.S.V.P.
97176 26728

Dhanuka Group

PM To Launch Major Infra Plans For City

Events Likely This Week, World Trade Centre & RRTS Included

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Ahead of announcement of Delhi assembly poll date, PM Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and lay foundation stone for a number of infrastructure projects for the national capital this week. These include inauguration of the World Trade Centre at Nauroji Nagar, handing over of govt flats at Sarojini Nagar opening of a 13-km section of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) connecting New Ashok Nagar in Delhi to Sahibabad in Ghaziabad, and laying of foundation of the Rithala Kundli metro line.

TOI has learnt that the programmes are scheduled for Jan 3 (Friday) and Jan 5 (Sunday). The Election Commission is likely to announce the poll date early next week.

Eight events, including a public meeting, would be held on Friday. "We are expecting some major announcements to boost the city's infrastructure, particularly in the road and transport sector, and major social welfare schemes," a source said. The poor upkeep of roads in the capital has been a major issue that BJP is using to target the AAP govt.

Sources said on Friday, around one-fourth of the 1,700 flats that have been completed at the redeveloped Sarojini Nagar govt housing complex are likely to be allotted to central govt employees. In the

case of the World Trade Centre, which is a flagship commercial project of the central govt, all commercial spaces have been sold or leased out.

Officials said the PM is likely to inaugurate the Ashok Nagar-Sahibabad stretch of the RRTS corridor on Sunday. This will establish fast-rail connectivity between Meerut and the national capital, bringing down travel time to nearly an hour. Though the inauguration of this section was slated for last Sunday, it

PM is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the metro line between Rithala and Kundli. The Union Cabinet okayed it on Dec 6

was postponed due to the seven-day national mourning announced following the death of former PM Manmohan Singh on Dec 26.

Similarly, PM Modi is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the new metro line between Rithala and Kundli. The Union Cabinet, on Dec 6, had approved the 26.5 km corridor of Delhi Metro's phase-IV project, which will improve connectivity between the national capital and neighbouring Haryana. The Rs 6,230-crore corridor is scheduled to be completed in four years.

Doon e-way: No early date for Delhi stretch

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The first leg of the Delhi Dehradun Expressway from Anshardham to the Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPEE) intersection will now be inaugurated once the entire corridor is ready for traffic by March, sources said. Earlier there was a plan to inaugurate the first stretch of 32 km, falling in the national capital and parts of Uttar Pradesh, before the Delhi assembly polls.

TOI has learnt that the road transport ministry has informed the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) that the current progress of the entire 210-km ex-

pressway is around 90% and it will be completed by the end of Feb. "The plan is to open the expressway in one go rather than opening different stretches when they get completed. Commuters get full benefit of an expressway when they don't need to take detours or diversions, and the end-to-end travel is seamless," said a source.

Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari had maintained that once the expressway is finished, the travel time between Delhi and Dehradun will be reduced to 2.5 hours, and the journey from Delhi to Haridwar will be cut from five hours to two hours.

2 weapon suppliers of robbers arrested

New Delhi: Two days after two robbers were shot in the legs following an encounter with police in Punjab Bagh, authorities arrested their associates who were supplying them with weapons.

The accused were identified as Sumit Chauhan (35), a resident of Burari, and his associate Rahul Kumar (34), a resident of Peeragarhi.

The encounter occurred on Sunday when the robbers, who were stopped by the police, opened fire, hitting the officers' bulletproof vests. In retaliation, the police fired back, injuring Rohit Kapoor and Rinku, who were later taken to a hospital. The two robbers were involved in 80 criminal cases.

During interrogation, the accused, Rohit and Rinku, disclosed that their associates, Rahul and Sumit, procured the weapons used in several armed robberies and other crimes. Based on this information, the two were arrested. A pistol, two live cartridges, and a buttoned knife were recovered from Rahul, while Sumit was found in possession of a pistol and three live cartridges. Police stated that both robbers, Rinku and Rohit, primarily targeted various areas of Delhi, focusing on gold, jewellery and cash.

NOTICE



Child Name: Indrajit (Self), Gender: male, Weight: 41.00 kg., Height: 156 C.M., Age: 12 Years (approx), Complexion: Fair.

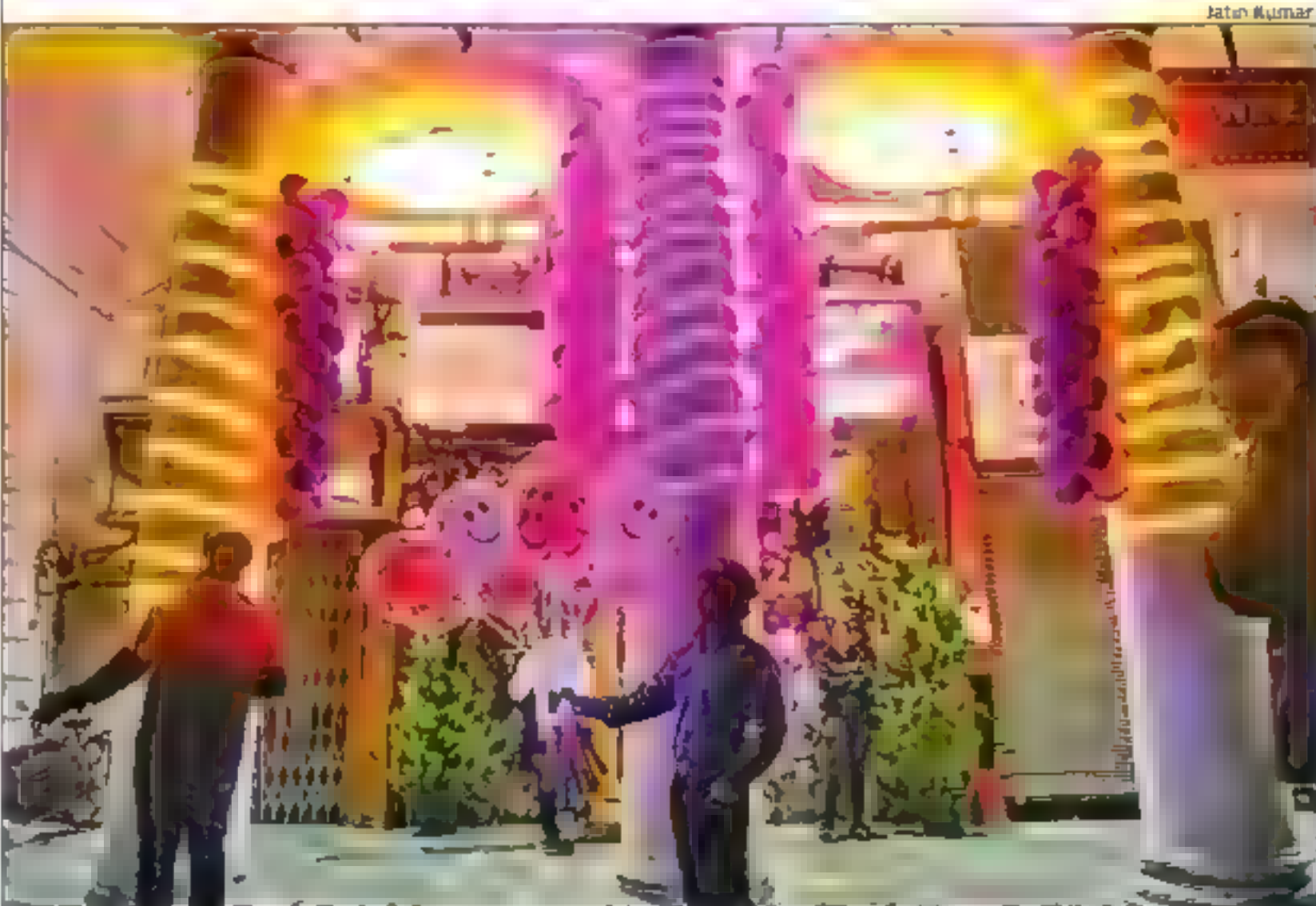
The above mentioned child is now staying at Uttar Children's Home, MLRC, Adra, Purulia, West Bengal by the order of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Purulia.

If anybody has any claim or any information about the above mentioned child they may communicate to the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Purulia within 26th January, 2025 with proper documents.

Otherwise the child will be declared Legally Free for Adoption.

Contact Details:
Office of the District Magistrate, Purulia
District Child Protection Unit (DCPU)
E-mail: dcps.pu@gmail.com
mlrcadra@rediffmail.com
Contact Number: 03252-224409 / 9002813040
Memo No: 2302/CA/PUR/1 Dt: 31.12.2024

DECKED UP FOR A GOODBYE



HAPPY NEW YEAR: An illuminated Connaught Place waits early in the evening for the merry-makers

Investment scam: Gang with China link busted, 5 arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A gang, allegedly managed by Chinese scammers and involved in at least 68 cheating cases in India, was busted recently by police on Tuesday. The gang was duping people into investing large sums of money for high returns.

Five members of this international syndicate were arrested. They included Ravit Kumar (29), Swarnpreet Singh (34), Manpreet Singh (42), Jaspal Singh (24) and Vansh Gupta (23). Except Vansh, who hails from Jammu, all others are residents of Punjab.

The racket was unearthed following a complaint lodged on Oct 18 by a woman from Sadh Nagar in southwest Delhi's Palam Colony. She was duped of Rs 19 lakh after being contacted by a woman on WhatsApp who introduced herself as an assistant and lead analyst. The analyst tricked her into paying the amount by assuring her significant returns.

DCP (South West) Surendra Choudhary said the defrauded amount was transferred from her bank account to one in Ludhiana, Punjab, which was under the name of a firm owned by Ravit Kumar. Further investigation revealed that nearly Rs 2.6 crore was siphoned off through this account to various other accounts.

Subsequently, a team, led by inspector Vikas Kumar Buldak, raided several locations and arrested Ravit. Ravit provided information that later led to the arrest of two more suspects, Manpreet and Swarnpreet, who were detained in Patiala. Jaspal and Vansh were apprehended at a hotel in Paharganj, Delhi.

The Dubai-based members of this gang exploited unemployed youths from India by promising them jobs with a Chinese firm in Dubai

Jaspal told police that he obtained Ravit's bank account details from his associate, Maninder Singh. He also claimed that the funds were being transferred to the Chinese nationals involved in the online scam.

Police sources said that the criminal network operated from Dubai, where the accused were working in tandem with Chinese nationals. The arrested individuals were responsible for setting up fake bank accounts and routing the ill-gotten money to international accounts.

Two Nigerians caught smuggling heroin

New Delhi: Police has arrested two Nigerian nationals and allegedly recovered 442 grams of heroin from their possession, an official said on Tuesday. The arrested individuals, Amans Osaretin alias Fred and Thompson alias Emeka, were allegedly part of a narco-syndicate distributing heroin across NCR. They allegedly operated a multi-state drug distribution network. Fred (47), arrived in India in 2014 for medical treatment. Thompson (47) overstayed his visa after arriving in India in 2021 for medical reasons, PTI

Road tunnel: DPCC submits public inputs to green min

Priyangi.Agarwal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has prepared a report based on the feedback it has received during two public hearings in Sept regarding the proposed construction of an underground road tunnel from Shiv Murti Interchange to Nelson Mandela Marg.

The report has been submitted to the ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF&CC), which will make the decision on granting environmental clearance to the project.

DPCC, in its report, said that the participants at the hearing were told by the project proponent that the environmental management plan will be implemented during construction. A local resident, Nishkarsh from Mahipalpur, asked during the public hearing if he would face any problems as the proposed tunnel would come up above his house. The project proponent in its written reply has stated that the tunnel will be constructed using a tunnel boring machine below the surface, and hence no damage is anticipated.

"Proper monitoring and safety design checks shall be done to avoid any damage to existing structures," the project proponent has said, according to DPCC's report.

Another participant, Jitendra Yadav also from Mahipalpur, asked officials when the tunnel work would start and what arrangements would be made to keep the environment safe. He was told that the tentative date for the start was July 2025, subject to clearances. All precautions and other measures would be taken as per the Central Pollution Control Board guidelines, monitored by NHAI and its agencies, the project proponent assured Yadav.

Anupam Avasthi, another participant, told the officials that his sector, D-6 Santoshi Apartment, will be the most affected during the implementation of the project. He said they were already suffering because the society was closed on one side due to metro construction work. He was assured that there would be minimum inconvenience to the residents.

ADPCC official said, "The comments received during the public hearings have been compiled and sent to the MoEF&CC for further action in the matter."

The total length of the tunnel is 4.9km, and it is proposed to pass through New Delhi and South Delhi districts, including the southern ridge. A total of 417 trees are proposed to be cut. The project aims to ease traffic.

According to the draft environmental impact assessment report, forest land involving 5,825 hectares falling under Southern Ridge and 1,688 hectares that is a deemed forest will be diverted.

The ridge management board gave approval to the project in Nov 2022, followed by the Central Empowered Committee in June 2023 and the Supreme Court in Oct last year.

Of the total 4.93km, the tunnel length would be around 4.3km. The total capital cost, including civil, utility shifting, and forest and environment, is proposed to be Rs 4089 crore.

Cop run over in Nangloi in Sept: Chargesheet filed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Months after a policeman's fatal encounter with a car in west Delhi's Nangloi, Delhi Police have filed a chargesheet in the case.

The incident occurred when the policeman, on bike patrol, got into an argument with the car driver, who then chased, hit, and dragged him over 30 feet before crushing him against a stationary vehicle on Sept 29.


The chargesheet names Dharmender and Rajnish as the main accused, while two others have been accused of harbouring Dharmender.

According to the 400-page chargesheet filed by Delhi Police in court, the incident began when constable Sandeep Malik spotted Dharmender and Rajnish drinking in a car while on night duty. They became enraged after Sandeep objected to their drinking. The constable instructed the duo to leave immediately for their residence. However, Dharmender and Rajnish refused.


Constable Sandeep admonished them and threatened to initiate legal action at their residence, forcing them to vacate the premises. This enraged Dharmender further. As the constable pursued them on his motorcycle, the accused stopped outside Veena Enclave, some distance from their residence, and awaited his arrival.

The murder, captured on CCTV footage, confirmed that the cop was mowed down without any provocation. At 2.15 am, the car reached the street, reversed slightly, and stopped on the side. At 2.16 am, as constable Sandeep approached on his motorcycle and headed towards the accused's house, the accused tailed him and ran him over. The footage shows that upon impact, Sandeep lost control of the motorcycle, his legs were thrust into the air and he collapsed onto the bike. The wagon then collided with another vehicle, sandwiching the cop between the car and a stationary vehicle. Despite being rushed to hospital, he succumbed to his injuries. His body was handed over to his family after an autopsy.

They were booked under BNS sections 221 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 103 (murder), 249 (harbouring offender) and 35 (common intention).



Remembering A Visionary



(01.01.1925- 27.03.2018)

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IN RELIEF FOR EX-CRICKETER, HC STAYS PF ARREARS CASE AGAINST ROBIN UTHAPPA

TIMES NATION

BIHAR CM NITISH MAKES ASSETS PUBLIC, HAS ₹21.000 IN CASH, ₹1.5CR FLAT IN DELHI

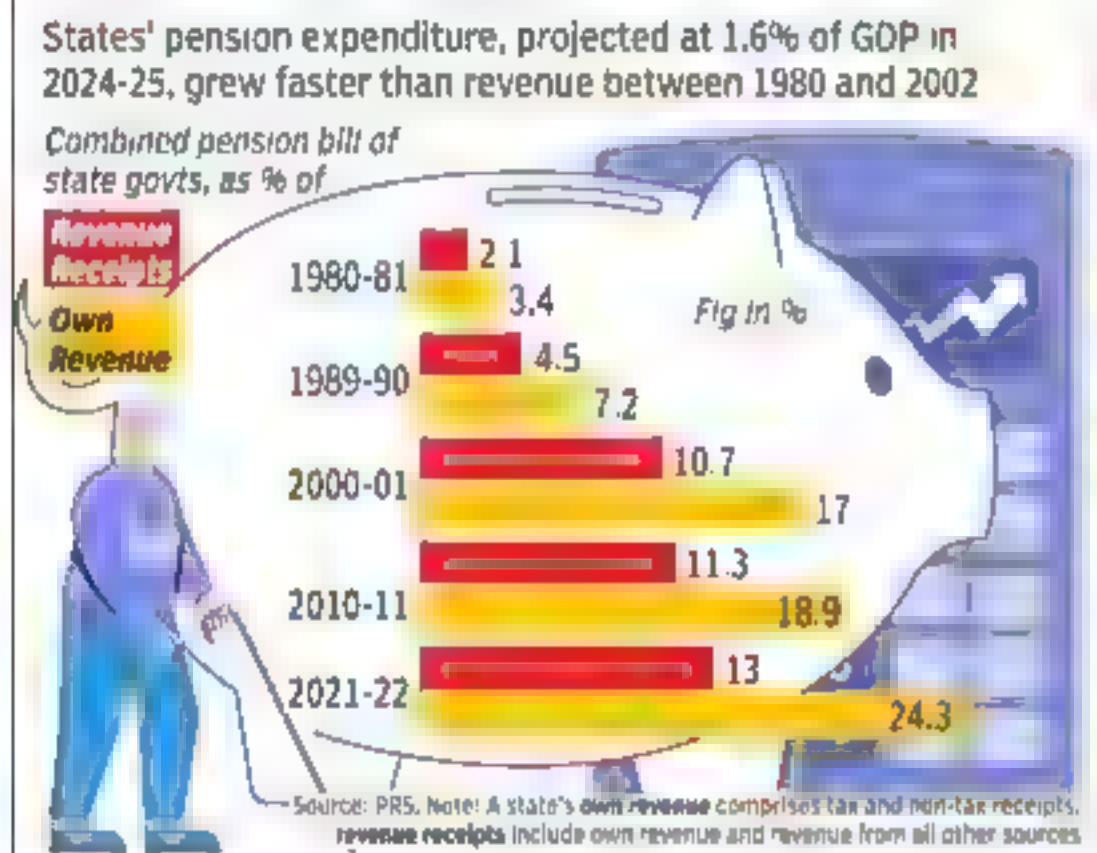


History Meets AI

Internet was born on this day in 1983 after the first such network, Arpanet, switched to TCP/IP protocol

STA TISTICS A slice of life reminders of various events

PENSION COSTS ROSE 6X IN 4 DECADES



PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Sajid, S/o: Nasru, R/o: VPO-Basat MEV Mewat Haryana, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in CC No. 5895/2019, U/s. 138 NI Act, P.S.: KNK Marg, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Sajid, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Sajid, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person Sajid CC No. 5895/2019, U/s. 138 NI Act, P.S.: KNK Marg, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 17.02.2025

By Order
Rohit Kumar
DP/17134/RD/2024
(Court Matter)
Judicial Magistrate First Class-04
Court No. 110 Rohini Court, New Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a male named Aman Kumar, S/o: Shobha Devi, R/o: H.No. 24 Tanchua Mohalla, Chilla Village, Delhi has been missing/Kidnapped since 14.10.2024 at about 01:00 PM from his home. In this regard FIR No. 418/2024, U/s: 137(2) BNS, Dated 19.11.2024 has been registered at P.S. Mayur Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing/Kidnapped male is as under
Name: Aman Kumar, Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt & Lower, Black Colour Slipper in Feet.
If anyone have any information about this missing/Kidnapped male please inform PS Mayur Vihar, Delhi
Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24358638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station Mayur Vihar, Delhi
DP/17138/ED/2024
Ph: 011-22710335, 8750870627

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male name y Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found Unconscious Condition on 14.12.2024 from G-Block Mangolpuri, Delhi. Was Admitted on MLC No. 26048/24 Sanjay Gandhi Hospital where during the treatment doctor declared him dead. In this regard DD No. 36A, dated 14.12.2024 has been issued at Police Station Mangolpuri, Delhi. Physical Description of unidentified male dead body is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: About 34 Years, Height: 5'10", Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: Tattoo on Left Hand, Wearing: Green Colour Hoodie T-Shirt and Pink Colour Pant.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned
SHO
Police Station Mangolpuri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27922168, 7065036121
DP/16896/OD/2024

Maha mantri's aide surrenders in Beed sarpanch murder case

Political Vendetta Behind False Extortion Complaint, Says Accused

Gitesh Shelke@timesofindia.com

Pune: The man wanted in connection with the abduction and murder of Massajog village sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh in Maharashtra's Beed district surrendered Tuesday to CID in Pune. Former Parli municipal council chief Valmuk Karad, a close associate of minister Dhananjay Munde of NCP (Ajit Pawar), had been on the run since cases were registered earlier in Dec.

"I have done nothing wrong. My name is being dragged into this," Karad said before entering the CID office. He was questioned for two hours before being arrested in CID is investigating three interconnected cases: Deshmukh's abduction and murder, a Rs 2 crore extortion bid involving a windmill company in which the sarpanch tried to intervene, and an assault on the firm's security guard. Although Karad is not named in the murder, his alleged role in the extortion plot has created political ripples, with opposition and Mahayuti coalition politicians



Although Karad is not named in the murder, opposition and Mahayuti netas have demanding his arrest and minister Munde's resignation

from Beed district demanding his arrest and minister Munde's resignation, alleging political shielding. CID DIG Sarang Awad said Karad "will be taken to Kaj for custodial remand proceedings and further investigation". Two others named in the extortion case have already been arrested. In a video message released before his surrender, Karad claimed innocence, alleging political vendetta. "A false extortion complaint has been filed against me I am surrendering at CID office despite having the right to seek anticipatory bail. The real culprits behind Deshmukh's murder should be arrested and given the death penalty. If found guilty, I am ready to be punished," he said. CID refrained from disclosing Karad's whereabouts during his 20 days on the run. Karad's supporters alleged he was a scapegoat in a politically charged rivalry

'Will cancel unnecessary Beed arms licences': Police are scrutinising all weapon licences issued in Beed district of Maharashtra and verifying in every case if the person has a legitimate need for a firearm, a senior police official has said.

FIRs would be registered against persons whose photographs or videos while flaunting a gun are circulating on social media, Beed Superintendent

FULL COVERAGE: P 18

Leopard seen on Infy Mysuru campus, staff to work from home

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: A leopard was sighted at the Infosys campus in Mysuru early Tuesday sending foresters and police on a hunt to trap the big cat.

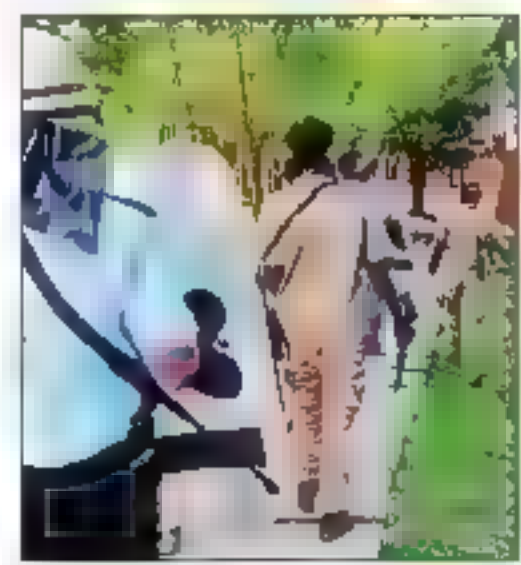
CCTV footage confirmed the leopard's presence some 100 metres from the hostel at the high-security campus located in the Hebbal industrial area on the outskirts of the city. However, personnel from the forest department, cops and the IT company staff did not spot it during the day.

Combining operations will continue on Wednesday as well, forest authorities said.

As soon as the big cat's presence on the campus was confirmed, it was closed for the day. Except for a handful of staff members, only foresters and police were allowed inside, and all the gates were closed. More than 10,000 people work on the campus that is spread over 300 acres.

A software engineer said he received a message around 8 am about the presence of the leopard and was advised to work from home for the day.

Speaking to reporters in Bidar, forest minister Eshwar B Khandre said, "Drones



Karnataka foresters and cops are on a hunt to trap the big cat

fitted with thermal cameras are being used to trace the leopard. All measures have been taken to ensure the animal doesn't enter the nearby human habitat."

Although the boundary wall, equipped with electric fencing, stands 12-13 feet high, the trees planted along the outer wall provided an easy entry point for the big cat. Foresters said the leopard climbed on a tree to gain entry into the campus.

Speaking to TOI, Prabhu Gowda, deputy conservator of forests (wildlife), said "CCTV footage confirmed the entry of the leopard, though we have not been able to locate it."

SGPC reverses Badal shooter ex-communication decision

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Amritsar: Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee's executive committee reversed Tuesday its decision to excommunicate Narain Singh Chaura, who attempted to assassinate Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) functionary Sukhbir Singh Badal outside Amritsar's Golden Temple on Dec 4. The Dec 9 resolution urging the Akali Takht Jathedar to excommunicate Chaura from the Panth was annulled without citing any reason for doing so. The executive committee

also discussed the killing of three suspected pro-Khalistan operatives from Punjab in a shootout with police in UP and demanded a judicial inquiry into the deaths.

The meeting, chaired by SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhani, passed a resolution that questions if the encounter was a deliberate attempt to target youths from Punjab. Another decision was to extend by a month the term of the panel tasked with probing allegations levelled by a person against Takht Damdama Sahib Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh.

PREPARING FOR MAHAKUMBH



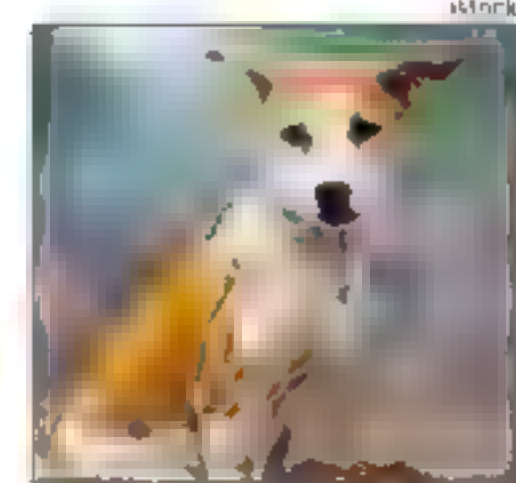
A sadhu at the Dashashwamedh Ghat ahead of the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj on Tuesday. UP CM Yogi Adityanath said that no protocol will be applicable during the main bathing festival in the mela

Tax fears stop WB pet owners from opening up during livestock census

Sarthak Ganguly & Suman Chakraborti | TNN

Kolkata: The state animal resources development department is conducting a survey on domesticated animals in Bengal for the Centre's 21st livestock census across the country.

Several pet owners in Kolkata and suburbs are reportedly hiding their furry babies from the prying eyes of the census, according to officials who are facing challenges in conducting the survey. They are seeking help from civic and urban municipal bodies to pre-empt resistance or reluctance by pet owners. The officials lamented that several people



The officials lamented that several people are reluctant to reveal their ownership of pets, mostly pedigree dogs, for fear of any additional tax burden

are reluctant to reveal their ownership of pets, mostly pedigree dogs, for fear of any additional tax burden being imposed on them. The survey began on

Sept 1 and is conducted by the Centre in all states at an interval of every five years. It also includes pet dogs and cats along with other domesticated animals.

Although the survey was supposed to be concluded in Bengal on Dec 31, the deadline has been extended until Feb, Utpal Kumar Karim, MD of West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation, said.

"We have already started corresponding with local municipal bodies, including Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, about the census," an official of the state animal resources development department said.

Subsequently, Rs 10,000 cash and some stolen valuables were recovered. The other burglar is still at large, police said.

2 drunk burglars break into home, 1 flees with loot, other passes out

Tapan Sushree | TNN

Roorkee: Two drunk men, in a bid to make a fast buck, broke into a house at a posh colony in Roorkee in Uttarakhand on Monday night and started ransacking the house. As the night was cold, they decided to take a few gulps more at the house from a bottle which they carried. However, as luck would have it, one of the thieves got completely sozzled and passed out in one of the bedrooms of the house.

His accomplice was tipsy and tried to wake his partner but failed and abandoned him before fleeing with Rs 2 lakh cash and gold jewellery worth Rs 3 lakh.

The house owner, Mayank Goel, 45, who used to work for a finance company, said on Tuesday "I went to UP with my wife and child to meet a relative on Saturday. We returned home around 11 pm on Monday, and to our shock found the lock of the front door broken and the rooms ransacked. As we entered cautiously, we saw a man sleeping in one of the bedrooms. We called the police and found that he was drunk, and his name was Wasim Khaleel."

Police have sent Khaleel (40), from Roorkee, for medical tests and he was remanded in judicial custody. An FIR under BNS sections 305 (theft in a house), 331-A (housebreaking by night for theft) and 317-2 (possession of stolen property) was registered.

Subsequently, Rs 10,000 cash and some stolen valuables were recovered. The other burglar is still at large, police said.

Mumbai fog spreads to sea, pushes fish to warmer waters 200km away

Chittaranjan Tembhekar @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Kashinath Bhoir has not returned to the Versova jetty for a week, he and numerous other fishermen have ventured almost 100 nautical miles (around 185km) into the sea to secure their catch. Dnyanesh, his brother, says the fog that blanketed a vast expanse of Arabian sea off Mumbai's coast last week has made the fish move out of its usual 15-20 nautical mile range near the coast towards warmer waters.

A Met official said easterly winds have propelled the haze from Mumbai towards the sea. It currently extends 40-50 nautical miles offshore, diminishing visibility to 2 km for fishing vessels, reports.

According to fishermen association head Devendra Tandel and Rajhans Tapke, fishing boats and trawlers are now compelled to use up substantial stocks of fuel to ven-

CATCH DWINDLES

> Easterly wind carrying dust, pollutants from various parts of state, pushing smog over Mumbai region further into sea
> Haze causes sea surface water temp to drop, reduces sunlight reaching fish, forcing them to go to warmer waters
> While fish catch reduces, visibility also reduces for fishing boats in areas near city

ture up to 100 nautical miles (India's territorial waters extend up to 200 nautical miles). As fish migrate towards warmer waters, the catch is dwindling and prices escalating in the city's markets.

Fluctuating weather patterns have altered fish migration routes, with Bombay duck, typically caught near Versova, now found beyond Palghar towards Gujarat. Similarly, sardines have shifted northward from the Konkan towards south of Mumbai, they said, highlighting that

these alterations in patterns are directly related to weather conditions. According to Tandel, pomfrets have travelled far beyond Mumbai waters.

Tapke observed that the recent collision between a fishing vessel and a cargo ship occurred due to poor visibility caused by the dense smog near the coast. Explaining the weather phenomenon, Kamble said the easterly wind travelling towards the western coast is carrying dust and pollutants from various parts of the state, pushing the smog over the Mumbai region further into the sea. "This time it is not Mumbai's pollution alone, but from other surrounding urban setups as the wind is blowing from the countryside towards the coast," he said. It may be noted that the extended smog over Mumbai is primarily due to the substantial moisture that flowed in with the interaction of easterly northerly and westerly winds over Maharashtra lead-

ing to condensation. The initial foggy condition which was due to a drop in temperature thus transformed into widespread smog over the past few days as the heavy moisture and insufficient wind speed forced the dust and smoke from vehicles, garbage and construction sites to remain suspended in air. Since Monday, however, the smog has been rapidly dissipating.

Tandel, who is chief of All Maharashtra Fishermen's Action Committee, said the cost of fuel and ice for cold storage, rationing and maintenance of a vessel has increased substantially over the last week, leading to rise in prices of fish. He said since the boats were arriving late, it has also resulted in shortage. "The cost of Bombay duck has increased more than double while pomfrets and sardines are 30-35% more expensive. If the same weather continues, the rise could be more," Tapke added.



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CDSCO seizes large quantities of drugs without proper papers from Kol-based co

atives to retrieve her confiscated passport. Tragically, an overdose led to his death.

She was arrested while attempting to flee the country and was convicted of murder in 2018. In 2020, a trial court in Sanaa sentenced her to death, and Yemen's Supreme Judicial Council upheld the verdict in Nov 2023, though it left open the option of blood money. The case has drawn widespread attention and raised concerns over the fate of Indian nationals abroad as the family and supporters continue their efforts to save Priva from the death penalty.

The seized drugs, labelled as being manufactured in various countries including Ireland, Turkey, the USA, and Bangladesh, were found without any supporting documents to prove their legitimate import into India.

FIRM OWNER FILE
firm has been arrested, and to ensure proper investigation, samples of the drugs have been sent for drug testing. "The remaining seized quantity is being kept in safe custody by CDSCO," the health ministry said.



A court granted judicium custody of the arrested proprietor for 14 days and permitted further interrogation. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing, the ministry said.

The statement added that CDSCO and state authorities will continue to work in close coordination to combat the threat posed by spurious drugs and to safeguard the interests of consumers.

Recently, CDSCO introduced new guidelines for inspections. It stated that all drug inspectors in the country should collect at least 10

samples in a month; nine samples of drugs and one sample of cosmetics/medical device. It also said the drug inspectors must plan the sampling in such a way that samples are forwarded to the laboratory on the same day of sampling. In case of rural location or distant location to office, sample shall be forwarded to laboratory by next day and not later than that.

The new guidelines also provide for centralised information on sale outlets where sub-standard or spurious products are reported to keep them under regular vigilance.

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General Public is further informed that copy of said Environment Clearance Letter is available in the office of Haryana State Pollution Control Board Panchkula and State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEAA), Panchkula Haryana. Also available on website link - <https://parivesh.nic.in/#/>

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'Chapterise' your career to not allow breaks to define you

By Saundarya Rajesh

The year 2025 marks the silver jubilee of women's urban labour force participation crossing the double-digit mark. There is however a long way to go for women to elevate their careers and achieve long-term success. Let's call it opti-boosting—a way to build on your strengths and giving your career and life, a big boost of optimisation. Here are the opti-boost ideas to make 2025 a special year for career success.

Embrace your 'ikigai': Ikigai is a Japanese concept that means 'a reason for being' representing the intersection of what you love, what you are good at, what the world needs, and what you can be paid for, leading to a fulfilling and purposeful life. Think deep and examine what is at the intersection of your passion and economic security. You are not defined by one identity—have a portfolio of self.

Try the pre-mortem: While it sounds morbid, pre-mortem is a process of imagining the worst and becoming super resilient and comfortable dealing with it. Manju of Pondicherry imagined that her career had failed and then worked backwards to identify potential risks. When she landed a challenging assignment, she approached it with more confidence as she had already anticipated what might go wrong.

Chapterising career: View your career as a series of short-term, manageable chunks, rather than one overwhelming journey. This approach comes in handy when you are seeking a second career or need to take a break. Rashmi, a software engineer from Erode took a break in career but refused to



let that define her. She called it the break-chapter and then got back into the workforce within 2 years.

Stay intentional: Career intentionality is the bedrock of your success. Finding ways to make sure that you are back in the game after every setback and focusing on your professional portfolio are crucial steps. Learn the next thing about your craft, your specialisation, or your area of expertise. The world is constantly growing and you must know what you must aim for next. Staying informed

not just about industry trends but also about the dialogue in your space is crucial.

Make way for guru: Seeking and landing a mentor who provides valuable guidance to you in every career cross-section can build and strengthen your career. Mentors support you during both personal and professional decision-making and are also sounding boards, sharing advice from their own lives.

Become a beginner: We stay resilient whenever we push the ego

to the margins and approach challenges with humility, like a beginner. Be curious and approach tasks with an open mind and a willingness to learn.

Earlier generations of women focused on repair—correcting the wrongs and making them right. They focused on cleaning the system. Standing on their strong shoulders here's wishing that you will be an advocate for yourself and be bold in claiming your accomplishments.

(The writer is founder president of Avatar)

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Indicative Notice for Direct Recruitment on the posts of Asstt. Mgr/Tech and Dy. Mgr/Tech in Southern Region (HQ at Secunderabad) of RailTel Corporation - Vacancy Notice No. RCI/2024/PRA/1111

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- Assistant Manager/Technical (E-0 Level) (9 vacancies):** CTC (approx.) - Rs. 9 Lakh + annual Performance Related Pay (Minimum Educational Qualification & Experience: Diploma in Electronics or any other combination of Engineering branches, where Electronics is one of the branches, like, Electronics & Instrumentation, or M.Sc. (Electronics), or equivalent in Electronics and 5 yrs experience in areas given in the detailed vacancy notice)
- Deputy Manager/Technical (E-1 Level) (3 vacancies):** CTC (approx.) - Rs.12 Lakh + annual Performance Related Pay (Minimum Educational Qualification & Experience: B.E./B.Tech./B.Sc. (Engg) in Electronics & Telecom, or Telecom, or Computer Science, or Computer & Communication, or Information Technology, or Electrical, or Electronics, or any other combination of Engineering branches, where Electronics is one of the branches, like Electronics & Instrumentation, or M.Sc. (Electronics) or MCA, or equivalent and 5 yrs experience in areas given in the detailed vacancy notice)

Opening date of online registration of application is 28.12.2024. The last date for online registration of application is 27.01.2025. The detailed notice and application form for the above vacancy notice may be accessed on RailTel's website <https://www.railtel.in/careers.html> under 'current job openings' section.

Pr. Executive Director/HR

IGSTC
INDO-GERMAN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
G-5, Block-II Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016, India

The Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) is an autonomous registered society established in 2010 under an inter-governmental MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Germany. The mandate of the bi-national Centre is to promote research partnership of industrial relevance.

IGSTC invites applications for the position of Director as per the details given below:

Tenure of Appointment: The appointment will be purely temporary and contractual/on deputation for a term of three years, with the possibility of performance-based renewal of additional three years.

Candidate Profile: The Director should be an Indian national with an accomplished scientific and/or technological background as per the details available in the IGSTC website.

Essential Qualification:

- Ph.D. in Science/Engineering or master's degree in Engineering with 15 years of post-qualification experience in academic or industrial research and research management
- Candidate should have an accomplished Scientific and/ technological experience as well as Science/Research management background

Desirable experience: Candidate with experience in Technology development/Industrial experience

Age Limit: The age should be below 56 years as on the closing date of the advertisement.

Compensation Package:

- Annual Compensation package would be in the range of between 45 to 55 lakhs per annum depending upon qualification, experience and other credentials and corresponding to the position of Scientist "G" or Scientist "H" or equivalent prevailing in Scientific Ministries/Departments/Research Institutions in India
- If a candidate is from a private sector or from industry suitable compensation in the range of 45 to 55 lakhs per annum would be applicable
- For exceptional candidates in the above cases (Government/ Private sector), Governing Body may decide on an additional compensation package
- Duty Location: Delhi/NCR, India. The position requires travelling in India and Germany.

Application procedure: Interested persons should send their applications to adm@igstc.org with a detailed CV as prescribed in the website of IGSTC a statement of vision for the organization and your role as Director of IGSTC (max 2 pages)

Printed Application with supporting documents should be forwarded through proper channel to Chief Administrative Officer, Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) on or before 28 February 2025.

IIFCL PROJECTS LIMITED
(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of IIFCL, a Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Railways)
Registered Office: 9/1, Phase-II, NBCC Tower, Block-02, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023. CIN No.: U74902DL2012GOI231473

DIRECT RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF OFFICER IN GRADE-C (ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER) AT IIFCL PROJECTS LIMITED (ON REGULAR BASIS)

IIFCL Projects Limited (IPL) is a premier Financial and Infrastructure Advisory Company. It advises the Central/ State/ Local Governments on structuring and developing viable projects primarily on PPP basis and raising resources for Govt./PSU/ Private developers. It continuously engages with the Government and policy makers in rendering policy advocacy for further development of infrastructure.

Post	Total No. of Vacancies
Assistant General Manager (Grade -C)	02

For further information, interested candidates may visit our company's website <https://www.iifclprojects.in> under careers caption. All applications be sent through post to the undermentioned address as per the prescribed format in detailed advertisement.

IIFCL Projects Limited (IPL), Plot-A, 5th Floor, NBCC Tower, Block-02, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023

Last date for receipt of application is 22/01/2025 and in the case of remote area is 29/01/2025.

Any further Corrigendum or Amendment shall be notified on the company website only. Candidates shall regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Palika Kendra : Sansad Marg, New Delhi

VACANCY CIRCULAR

1. New Delhi Municipal Council proposes to fill up the following posts on Deputation/Consultant Basis in Architect Department, NDMC

Deputation Basis:

- A. Senior Architect/DCA in Pay Level-12
- B. Architect in Pay Level-11
- C. Deputy Architect in Pay Level-10

On Consultant Basis:

- A. Consultant (Assistant Architect) in Pay Level-7
- B. Consultant (Architectural Assistant) in Pay Level-6

2. The last date of receipt of applications is **10th January, 2025**.

3. Further Data is regarding post, pay scale, tenure etc. and application form can be downloaded from NDMC website i.e <https://www.ndmc.gov.in>

Sd/-
Director (Personnel)

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NIRF INDIA RANKINGS - 2024

- 14th Best in University Category
- 26th Best in Engineering Category
- 21st Best in Medical Category
- 9th Best in Dental Category
- 9th Best in Law Category
- 62nd Best in Management Category

14th Rank

APPOINTMENT FOR IMS & SUM HOSPITAL, KALINGA NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR, PHULNAKHARA, BHUBANESWAR SUM HOSPITAL, SITALPALLI, GANJAM

Applications from eligible candidates are invited for the following positions:

Position	Eligibility	Experience	Skills required	Salary
Business Development Executive / Business Development Manager / Deputy Manager in Business Development / Asst. Manager in Business Development	MBA in Marketing Management, Healthcare Management or related fields.	3 to 5 years of experience in sales, marketing or business development.	Experience in the healthcare or hospital industry	As per norms.

Interested candidates are requested to send their updated Resumes to recruitment@soa.ac.in by 10th Jan 2025 (last date of submission of Applications)

www.soa.ac.in

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- Senior and Middle Level Administrators / HR Professionals
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Who are we looking for?

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Share your Resume anytime through:
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WhatsApp : 9909983118

Date: 5 January 2025, Sunday
Time : 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Venue : 5 N Kansagra School, University Road, Opp. Akashwani Quarters, Rajkot.

Scan QR Code to fill up the application form

NOTE: TGES is a group of forward thinking institutions that recruits talented individuals for all subjects and extra-curricular activities throughout the year. Teaching and other relevant qualifications are an asset, but not prerequisites. Proficiency in English Language and Good Computer Literacy are absolutely essential. Freshers bring Fresh Thinking. They are welcomed. Access to the best training available is a norm, as we sincerely desire that you achieve your maximum potential.

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University Road, Rajkot - 360001, recruitment@tges.org, www.tges.org

Pinarayi slams Maha neta for calling Kerala 'mini-Pak'

Tpuram: Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan condemned Tuesday Maharashtra minister Nitesh Rane's recent comments referring to the southern state as a "mini-Pakistan". Calling the statement "provocative and condemnable," Pinarayi said it reflects Sangh Parivar's intent to alienate regions where they

Murder-accused's party: CPM in spot

Kerala's governing CPM, on the defensive after many of its functionaries were recently found guilty in Periyar double-murder case in Kasaragod, has courted another controversy after its top functionaries from Kannur attended Tuesday the house-warming function of a party worker convicted of a BJP activist's murder. CPM Kannur district secretary MV Jayarajan, state committee member P Jayarajan and others attended the house-warming of K Sreejith, prime accused and one of the convicts in 2008 murder of BJP activist Nikhil Malayattu. **TNN**

struggle to gain influence. Sangh Parivar spreads hatred and alienation to marginalise areas that challenge their ideology," the CM said, questioning the suitability of BJP's Rane for his position. Vijayan also criticised BJP brass for failing to address what he termed a serious violation of constitutional values.

Congress general secretary KC Venugopal also denounced Rane's remarks, accusing BJP of harbouring animosity towards Kerala. "Calling Kerala a 'mini-Pakistan' is a disgraceful attack on a state recognised globally for its excellence in education, healthcare, and communal harmony," he posted on X. Rane's comments were made during a rally in Pune's Purandhar tehsil Sunday. **TNN & AGENCIES**

6 launches in first 6 months: A busy 2025 ahead for Isro

Vyommitra, Nisar Missions Among Them

Surendra Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: 2025 is set to be a busy and important calendar year for Isro as space minister Jitendra Singh announced on Tuesday that half-a-dozen big-ticket missions have been lined up for launches in the first half of the new year that will include sending a female robot to space as a prelude to the final Gaganyaan manned mission and launching the world's most expensive Indo-US co-produced earth imaging NISAR satellite.

During a press meet to list India's space achievements in 2024 and informing about upcoming launches, Singh said Isro will first launch an advanced navigation satellite NVS-02 in Jan, said space minister Jitendra Singh.



Isro will first launch an advanced navigation satellite NVS-02 in Jan, said space minister Jitendra Singh.

Thereafter, Isro will send Vyommitra, a female humanoid built by Isro, to space as part of the unmanned Gaganyaan mission. This will prelude the manned mission and will be exactly similar to the final manned mission, except for humans. "Once everything goes right in Vyommitra mission, astronauts will be sent to space," the minister said.

He also said the Indo-US joint mission NASA ISRO SAR (NISAR) Satellite, which

is considered to be the world's most expensive satellite at Rs 12,506 crore, will be launched around March. "This satellite will scan nearly all land and ice every 12 days and will have very high resolution," the minister said.

Singh also said Isro was born in 1969 when the US was busy sending humans to the Moon. But now the situation has changed as Isro is launching US satellites as he refers to the upcoming commercial launch of a satellite for an American customer, which will be used for mobile communication. "We have the LVMS-M5 mission scheduled for the first quarter for an international customer India is also launching a satellite for direct mobile communication for the US by Feb or March, showcasing our evolving abilities," the minister said.

Isro chairman S Somnath said, "2025 will be a very exciting year as Isro will launch four GSLV rockets and three PSLV launches as well as an SSLV launch in the new year."

Singh: SpaDeX mission fully indigenous

New Delhi: A day after the successful launch of SpaDeX mission, space minister Jitendra Singh Tuesday said Jan 7 is the likely date for docking of two satellites of the mission, which is "totally indigenous", reports Surendra Singh.

On X, Singh said, "India has become the fourth country to join select league of nations to achieve space docking, through its own indigenously developed 'Bharatiya Docking System'. On the two satellites called 'Chaser' and 'Target', Singh told the media, "This is certainly the first such mission with smaller satellites. We will scale it up with heavier satellites and this docking technology will help us in setting up the Bhartiya Antariksh Station and subsequent missions to it."

Here's how Isro will attempt historic rendezvous & docking

Chaitan Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Isro's ambitious Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission, scheduled to perform the docking manoeuvre on Jan 7, will see the two satellites perform a carefully choreographed orbital dance before attempting to dock with each other.

This is how: The launch has given a small difference in velocity between the satellites. At 10 metres per second, this distance will grow and the satellites will grow apart by about 20km as early as the evening of Dec 31.

Once the satellites reach this separation, Isro will begin controlling their relative

TOI Explains

positions. "We'll start using the onboard propulsion systems on one of the two satellites to arrest the drift so that we maintain the 20km distance between the two satellites," M Sankaran, director, UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), said, explaining the intricate sequence of events that will unfold.

Like twins, the satellites will go around in the same orbit at the same speed. The mission timeline includes a four-day waiting period to achieve optimal solar orientation, crucial for generating sufficient power during the docking procedure.

"At this point again we'll initiate the drift of the two satellites so that the 20km distance is progressively reduced to 5km, 1.5km, and so on. And after we reach 5km, we'll enable the inter-satellite radio frequency (RF) link so the satellites talk to each other and exchange their own position, attitude, etc, which will enable us to evaluate the software logic."

Sankaran said. Several new sensors developed by the Laboratory



Once docked, the satellites will demonstrate power transfer capabilities, with electricity flowing from one satellite to the other to power a heater, confirming successful connect on

For Electro Optics Systems (LEOS) in Bengaluru will be evaluated for their fitness to initiate the docking sequence, which will start once the inter-satellite distance is reduced to 1.5km, utilising three different guidance algorithms.

The docking mechanism involves a "hugging" action. "The final approach will be particularly delicate. With a constant velocity of about 10 millimetres per second, the chaser satellite will go and enter the target satellite. The latches will be released and clamps on both sides will try

to grab each of the satellites," Sankaran added. Once they hold each other together, the ring which has been extended on the chaser satellite will be retracted so that the target satellite will be pulled towards the chaser satellite and the two will become a single unit.

Once docked the satellites will demonstrate power transfer capabilities, with electricity flowing from one

satellite to the other to power a heater, confirming successful connection. The combined unit will then be controlled by a single satellite's control system, demonstrating technology crucial for future space station operations, including India's planned Bhartiya Antariksh station.

The SpaDeX mission represents a long journey from concept to reality. "This work, as a thought experiment, started around 1989, and at the time nobody thought that this was required for us, but the tenacity was there. When the project was approved in 2016, we were able to realise it over several years," Sankaran said.

The mission required extensive preparation and testing. Isro developed several testbeds to validate the mechanism as well as the docking sequence, the sensors, etc. It has been a combined effort of so many people across Isro centres and the industry," Sankaran said.

The successful completion of this mission would mark a significant milestone in India's space capabilities, particularly in developing technologies necessary for future space station operations and satellite servicing missions. The ability to dock spacecraft in orbit is a crucial capability possessed by only a few space-faring nations. India is now on the cusp of joining this elite group.

NIA clocked 100% conviction rate in 2024

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: National Investigation Agency (NIA) secured a 100% conviction rate in 2024, with 68 accused convicted in the 25 cases decided by Special NIA courts across the country.

A total of 210 accused were arrested across key categories of crimes — left wing extremism, North East insurgency, Islamist terrorism, gangster-terrorist-smuggler nexus etc — in 80 cases registered by NIA in 2024. A total 682 raids and searches were carried out by the agency across the country.

The year was marked by convictions of 68 accused (in 25

A total of 210 accused were arrested across key categories of crimes in 80 cases registered in 2024

cases) and chargesheeting of 408 accused. NIA got 137 properties, assets worth Rs 19.57 crore attached during 2024.

In terms of cases registered by NIA during the year, those linked to left wing extremism and North East insurgency topped the list at 28 and 18 cases respectively. Seven cases related to terrorism in J&K and four to Khalistan ele-

ments were also filed.

As many as 68 of the total 210 arrests made by NIA were in left wing extremist cases.

North-East insurgency was also high on NIA's radar with 15 arrests, of which five were in two cases linked to the Independence Day boycott call given by Pargash Baruah-led ULFA(I) in Assam. The crackdown on the growing terrorist gangster nexus was also a key highlight of the year. NIA arrested 14 accused in connection with foreign-based Khalistan terrorist cases during the year, which saw 103 searches and 13 arrests in these cases. The agency's agile efforts

in cracking terror cases were evident in the fact it had chargesheeted Pakistan-based Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) chief Wadhawa Singh & Babbar and five others in the murder of VHP leader Vikas Prabhakar & Vikas Bagga in Punjab within months of the attack. Similarly, 10 accused, including foreign-based terrorist Goldy Brar, were expeditiously chargesheeted in the case pertaining to firing for extortion at the house of a businessman in Chandigarh by aides of Brar.

NIA scaled up its operations manifold in 2024, cracking the Rameshwaram cafe blast case within months.

TIMES ascent

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VACANCIES

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- Geography Teacher (Bachelor's Degree in subject)
- Special Educator Teacher. (Graduate, B Ed with Special Education in SLD/ D and RC Number)
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Interested candidates can apply at headmaster@ypspatiala.in by 15th January 2025.

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINAGAR
PALAJ, GANDHINAGAR-382055, GUJARAT

Advertisement No.: IITGN/STAFF/RECT/02/2024-25

Online applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for appointment to the following posts of the Institute on direct/deputation basis

Sl. No.	Post	Number of positions	Pay Scale & Band Level
1	Librarian	01 (UR)	Academic Level 14 (Rs. 1,44,200 - 2,18,200)
2	Superintending Engineer	01 (UR)	Level 13 (Rs. 1,23,100 - 2,15,900)

Appointment on deputation basis shall be made as per the Government of India rules. Further details regarding eligibility criteria, qualification, experience and prescribed application form is available at institute website <https://iitgn.ac.in/careers/non-academic-staff>. The portal of on-line application will remain open up to 23.59 hrs. on 30 January 2025. **REGISTRAR**

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking - 100% Public) (CIN: L74990DL1990Q0181707)

NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF APPRENTICES IN IRCTC/NORTH ZONE

Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC Ltd.), North Zone intends to engage the 12 Apprentices in COPA (Computer Operator & Programming Assistant) Trade. The important dates, eligibility and other terms & conditions of engagement may be seen at <https://www.irctc.com> - HR & Career - New Openings w.e.f. 06.01.2025 onwards.

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL-NOIDA
Sector-30, Tel: ☎ 0120-4509100
Website: www.dpsnoida.ac.in

VACANCIES 2025-26

Applications are invited from trained and experienced candidates with good academic record, excellent communication skills and proficiency in co-curricular activities for the following posts

- PGT:** English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, History, Political Science, Geography, Legal Studies, Computer Science, Home Science, Economics, Fine Arts, Physical Education
- TGT:** English, Hindi, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History/Civics, Geography, Computer Science, Vocal Music
- PRT:** General PRT, English, Hindi, Maths, EVS, German, French, Spanish, Sanskrit, Computer Science, Counsellor, Dance, Music (Vocal & Instrumental), Sports Coaches
- Receptionist / Front Office Executive, Data Entry operator**

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview. Apply within 7 days. Details on School Portal. **PRINCIPAL**

भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान सेनापति, मणिपुर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SENAPATI, MANIPUR
(An Autonomous Institute of National Importance under the MoE, Government of India)

Advt. No. 3/2/2024/F2 **28.12.2024**

FACULTY RECRUITMENT

IIIT Senapati Manipur invites applications from Indian Nationals for the recruitment of Assistant Professors (Level 10) in (CSE), (ECE) and Mathematics. The detailed advertisement, information brochure and online application forms are available in the website: www.iiitmanipur.ac.in. Last date for receipt of application is 20.01.2025. **Registrar (i/c)**

भारत एयरपोर्ट सर्विस लिमिटेड
APPOINTMENT

AI AIRPORT SERVICES LIMITED wishes to fill in existing vacancies and maintain a wait-list for vacancies arising in future. Indian Nationals (Male & Female) who meet with the requirements stipulated herein for the following post on a fixed term contract basis, which may be renewed subject to their performance and the requirement

Station	Particulars
Mumbai	Officer Security/ Jr. Officer Security
Delhi	Officer Security/ Jr. Officer Security

Govt. guidelines applicable for Reserved Categories

For Application Format and all other details, please see Advertisement on our website- <https://aisl.in/Recruitment> & <https://www.aisl.in/Careers.aspx>

ENGAGEMENT OF INTERNAL OMBUDSMAN ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

Name of the post	INTERNAL OMBUDSMAN
Mode of application	Offline application as per the prescribed format uploaded in career page of Banks' website www.indianbank.in
Age	Maximum 65 years as on 01.12.2024
Application Fee	₹ 100/- (inclusive of GST) for SC/ST/PwBD candidates. ₹ 1000/- (inclusive of GST) for all other Candidates
Last date of receipt of application	27.01.2025
Eligibility Criteria and Experience	Please visit career page of www.indianbank.in for full details

Place: Chennai **Chief General Manager (CDO / CLO)**
Date: 31.12.2024

यूको बैंक UCO BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Human Resource Management Department, 4th Floor, 18, 87M Sarani, Kolkata-700001
ADV. NO. HO/HRM/RECR/2024-25/COM-70 Dated: 27.12.2024
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S. No.	Position	Scale	Vacancies
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2	Fire Safety Officer	JMGS-I	02
3	Security Officer	JMGS-I	08
4	Risk Officer	MMGS-II	10
5	IT Officer	MMGS-II	21
6	Chartered Accountant	MMGS-II	26

Application Start Date: 27th December 2024
Application End Date: 20th January 2025

For detailed advertisement and application, please visit our website <https://ucobank.com> under "Career" section. Candidates meeting the requisite eligibility criteria may apply online only through the link available on Bank's website.

General Manager
Human Resource Management
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The Institute of Cost Accountants of India
(A Statutory Body established under the Cost Accountants Act, 1959)

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India is a statutory body enacted by the Parliament under the Cost Accountants Act, 1959 to regulate and develop the profession of Cost and Management Accountancy in India. The Institute is governed by the Council, responsible for the affairs of the institute and for discharging the functions under the Cost Accountants Act, 1959 having its Headquarters at Kolkata Office at New Delhi, 4 Regional Councils at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and New Delhi, 117 Chapters and 11 overseas centers. The Institute is looking for high profile and multi-faceted personality with leadership qualities, excellent communication interpersonal and motivational skills for the position of

Sl.	Name of the Position	No. of Post
1	Senior Officer	1

For further details and Application Form please log on to: <https://www.icmai.in>
The form duly filled in along with supporting documents should be submitted through online mode only, on or before 31st January, 2025 till 6 p.m.

श्रीमती प्रसाद मुकुंजी पोर्ट, कोलकाता
Syama Prasad Mukherjee Port, Kolkata
(Formerly KOLKATA PORT TRUST)

Haldia Dock Complex, Syama Prasad Mukherjee Port, Kolkata (erstwhile Kolkata Port Trust) is looking for professionals for engagement against the following position, on contract basis

Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Essential Criteria	Consolidated Remuneration per month
Assistant Manager HR/ P&R Offr. HOD, Haldia	04	i) 1 st Class degree in any discipline from a recognized University/ Institution AND ii) Full time regular Master of Business Administration with specialisation in Human Resource Management with minimum 60% marks OR Full time regular Post Graduate Degree / Post Graduate Diploma in Personnel Management or in Human Resource Management with minimum 60% marks. The qualification is to be acquired from a recognized university/ Institution.	₹ 75,000/-

For more details, last date of application and to apply as per prescribed format (in Hard Copies only), visit "Job Openings" of SAMP-K website at <https://sampa-k.org>

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Rotary General Hospital

100 Boded multispeciality hospital based at Ankleshwar, Gujarat is looking for following staff:

- Cardiac Surgeon (CVS)
- Cardiac Anaesthetic
- Orthopedic Surgeon
- Physician (MD Medicine)
- Intensivist
- Experienced ICU / Ward Doctor (MBBS / BHMS)
- Nursing Superintendent
- ICN
- Experienced Nurses
- Cathlab Technician
- Hospital Management Consultant
- Agency / Biomedical Engineer
- Non-Medical Staff
- Accounts Head
- HR Head
- Maintenance Head
- IT Head

Send your Resume / CV on: contact@sardarpatelhospital.com
hr@sardarpatelhospital.com Mo. No: 7227038642
Address: Station Rd, Opp. Railway Yard, Chiku Wadi, Ankleshwar, Gujarat - 393001.



**भाजपा नेता विधान सभा
क्षेत्र क्रमांक 04 जौरा
जिला मुरैना मध्यप्रदेश**

 ERCPCL Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project Corporation Limited													
Registered Office: A-11, Main Road, Jaipur-302007 CIN: U74101RJ2007PLC023282	Tel: 0141-2799007/2799008 Fax: 0141-2799001 E-mail: ercpcl@ercpcl.com PAN: RAJCE17940H												
No. 2365	Date: 30.12.2024												
NIB No.- ERCPCL/14/2024-25													
Corrigendum – 02													
Compendium issued for the NIB is as follows													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Reference /Clause No. /Page Number Of Notice Inviting Bid</th> <th>Existing</th> <th>Now to be read as</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Name of Work and Site (Pg-1, S.No.1)</td> <td>Construction of feeder system from Khura Chainpur to Jaisaiband Awar including all components with its O&M for a period of 20 years on Hybrid Annuity Model (ERCPCL-12-D9 TF-7A)</td> <td>Construction of feeder system from Khura Chainpur to Jaisaiband Awar including all components with its O&M for a period of 20 years on Hybrid Annuity Model (ERCPCL-09 TF-7A)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Estimated Cost of Work (NR in Crore) (Pg-1, S.No.1)</td> <td>4230</td> <td>3446</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S. No.	Reference /Clause No. /Page Number Of Notice Inviting Bid	Existing	Now to be read as	1	Name of Work and Site (Pg-1, S.No.1)	Construction of feeder system from Khura Chainpur to Jaisaiband Awar including all components with its O&M for a period of 20 years on Hybrid Annuity Model (ERCPCL-12-D9 TF-7A)	Construction of feeder system from Khura Chainpur to Jaisaiband Awar including all components with its O&M for a period of 20 years on Hybrid Annuity Model (ERCPCL-09 TF-7A)	2	Estimated Cost of Work (NR in Crore) (Pg-1, S.No.1)	4230	3446	
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These changes/ amendments may be seen on procurement portal http://proc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://www.sppcra.nic.in/ of the state													
NIB Code ERP2425A0623 UIN Code ERP2425MLOB00020 Ref.Sameed/4294874													
Managing Director ERCPCL, Jaipur													

**Office of the Superintending Engineer
Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr**

Dated-10.12.2024

E-Procurement Inviting Tender

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following the item rate bid online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per common no. 10 below Road work Category as applied from Date 03.01.2025 to 10.01.2025 upto 12.00 Noon as per the prescribed SBD of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 10.01.2025 at 2.30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bids shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakh)	5 Year Material estimate cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakh)	Time of Completion work including rainy season	Minimum awarded period	Tender Document Fee including GST (in Rs.)	Address of Executive Engineer issuing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	अन्नपूजा गौरीमन्दिर परिसर में विद्युत तार 2024-25 में आगूत-सुरक्षा-शेड्यूलिंग, सोला का मंदिर चिन्मयगुप्त आगूत चिन्मयगुप्त अन्नपूजा गौरीमन्दिर परिसर में विद्युत तार 1 में 10x500 एच वी वीक्यूम का कार्य	1673.00	42.00	90.00	12 Months	5 Years	Tender Cost Rs-3000+5%+G.S.T 414.00 2714.00	Executive Engineer Provincial Division, Bulandshahr P.W.D. Gautam budihaagar	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D. Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D. Meerut	A

1 Time allowed for completion of Whole work is mention in col. No. 6 with including rainy season.

2 The Tender Document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.

3 A registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost of work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Channakya Software before submission of tender

Details of e-tender uploaded on <http://etender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Channakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid.

4 Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on <http://etender.up.nic.in>

5 In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahar Software URL for Prahar is <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahar>.

As per GO No 17/2024/sr-113/23-61 dated 23-10-2024 Prokash Nirman Anubhag-1 Lucknow Dt-16.01.2024. Maintenance Period of the above works will be of 5 years and Maintenance Period will start from the actual date of completion of the work.

(Kanchan Singh)
Executive Engineer
P.D., PWD,
Gautambudhnagar

(Maneesha Verma)
Superintending Engineer
Bulandshahr circle, PWD
Bulandshahr

UP/D 225162 dt 26.12.2024,
<http://upgov.nic.in>



THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State. Tele. (08537) 275463, 276339

e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

Tender Notification No. 20/24-25, Dt: 31.12.2024 (Through KPP Portal only)

Tender is invited by "The Senior Manager (Materials)" for the procurement of following tender as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, including civil works, testing and commissioning of dust extraction system on turnkey bases in Secondary and Tertiary crusher plant. HGML/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT39/CALL-3.	1,50,000/-
2	Compressive operation, maintenance and security contract (CAOMSC) for 3 Nos. of 1.5 MW and 1 No. of 2.1 MW WTGs of Suzlon make for a period of three years. HGML/2024-25/SE0042	6,63,000/-
3	Compressive operation, maintenance and security contract for its 4.8 MW (0.6 MW X 8 Nos.) WTG of Vestas RRB make. HGML/2024-25/SE0043	4,30,000/-
4	Supply of Electric LHD 2.0CU.M Bucket Capacity. HGML/2024-25/IND0260.	3,50,000/-
5	Manufacturing, testing, supply and commissioning of LPDT at Hutti Gold Mine. HGML/2023-24/IND0124/CALL-4.	13,81,000/-
6	Tender For providing 30 Ex-Servicemen / Paramilitary (12 Security Gunmen and 18 Security Guards) Security Guards. HGML/2024-25/SE0036.	2,49,000/-
7	Supply of Manpower for Hutti Gold Mines HGML/2024-25/SE0041	1,73,000/-

Calendar of events: 1) Pre-Bid Meetings (Zoom): 09.01.2025 for Sl.no.1 at 10.30 am, Sl.no.2 at 11.00 am, Sl.no.3 at 11.30 am, Sl.no.4 at 12.00 pm, Sl.no.5 at 12.30 pm, Sl.no.6 at 3.00 pm, and Sl.no.7 at 3.30 pm. 2) Last date for receipt of tender: 29.01.2025 at 4.00 P.M 3) Opening of Technical Bid on 01.02.2025 at 10.00 A.M

For further details interested bidders are advised to login to website <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP portal

Sd/- Senior Manager (Materials)

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board FC 18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092 https://dssbonline.nic.in												
No. F 1 864, P&P, DSSSB/2024/Advt./7352		VACANCY NOTICE / ADVERTISEMENT NO. 10/2024			Dated: 30.12.2024							
COMBINED EXAMINATION, 2024 FOR THE POST OF POST GRADUATE TEACHER												
The opening date and closing date for receipt of online applications are as below												
Opening Date of Application: 16/01/2025 (16 th January, 2025) (From 12:00 Noon)												
Closing Date of Application: 14/02/2025 (14 th February, 2025) (Till 11.59 PM)												
Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) invites online applications from eligible candidates for recruitment to the post of <u>Post Graduate Teacher</u> against vacancies in respect of under mentioned Departments of Govt. of NCT of Delhi. Advertisement. For vacancies at per detail given below												
POST GRADUATE TEACHER												
S.No.	Post Code	Name of post	Name of Department	Pay Level	Vacancies*							PwBD (incl.)
					UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total		
1		PGT (Hindi) Male	Directorate of Education	8	51	4	6	2	7	70	3	
2	824/24	PGT (Hindi) Female	Directorate of Education	8	7	2	4	5	3	21	0	
3		PGT (Hindi)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (Maths) Male	Directorate of Education	8	10	7	2	0	2	21	0	
2	825/24	PGT (Maths) Female	Directorate of Education	8	1	4	1	4	0	10	0	
3		PGT (Maths)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (Physics) Male	Directorate of Education	8	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	
2	826/24	PGT (Physics) Female	Directorate of Education	8	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	
3		PGT (Physics)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (Chemistry) Male	Directorate of Education	8	1	3	0	0	0	4	0	
2	827/24	PGT (Chemistry) Female	Directorate of Education	8	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	
3		PGT (Chemistry)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (Biology) Male	Directorate of Education	8	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
2	828/24	PGT (Biology) Female	Directorate of Education	8	4	6	2	0	0	12	0	
3		PGT (Biology)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (Economics) Male	Directorate of Education	8	31	21	2	0	6	60	1	
2	829/24	PGT (Economics) Female	Directorate of Education	8	7	13	0	2	0	22	4	
3		PGT (Economics)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (Commerce) Male	Directorate of Education	8	14	14	1	0	3	32	1	
2	830/24	PGT (Commerce) Female	Directorate of Education	8	2	1	0	0	2	5	0	
3		PGT (Commerce)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (History) Male	Directorate of Education	8	28	10	6	3	4	50	1	
2	831/24	PGT (History) Female	Directorate of Education	8	2	4			3	11	1	
3		PGT (History)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (Geography) Male	Directorate of Education	8	14	1	2	2	2	21	1	
2	832/24	PGT (Geography) Female	Directorate of Education	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	
3		PGT (Geography)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (Pol Science) Male	Directorate of Education	8	41	7	6	0	5	59	2	
2	833/24	PGT (Pol Science) Female	Directorate of Education	8	11	3	3	0	2	19	3	
3		PGT (Political Science)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
1		PGT (Sociology) Male	Directorate of Education	8	2	1	0	0	2	5	0	
2	834/24	PGT (Sociology) Female	Directorate of Education	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
3		PGT (Sociology)	New Delhi Municipal Council	8	NO REQUISITION RECEIVED TILL DATE							
GRAND TOTAL					231	105	37	18	41	432	20	

*The above vacancies are tentative and based on inputs of the indenting Departments/Bodies

Candidates must apply online through the website <https://dssbonline.nic.in>. The closing date for submission of online application is up to **14/02/2025 (Till 11.59 PM)** after which the link will be disabled.

DSSSB will conduct examinations for making recruitment against the vacancies notified above. The date of conduct of examinations will be intimated in due course only through the website of the Board. The applicants are advised to visit DSSSB's website <https://dssbonline.nic.in> to check the detailed advertisement and confirm their eligibility for the above vacancies based on the Recruitment Rules of the indenting departments.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Only online applications will be accepted. Applications received by post/by hand/by mail etc. will not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. No correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

Sd/-
Deputy Secretary (P&P)
DSS

IDBI BANK **IDBI BANK LIMITED**
Regd. Off: IDBI Tower VIT-1 Complex,
CIN No.: 651901PUN00014183036, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400 005

**EMPALEMENT OF CONTRACTORS FOR ELECTRICAL
WORKS VIZ. REPLACEMENT/UPGRADATION OF
HT PANEL TRANSFORMERS AT IDBI TOWER, MUMBAI**

Tender for Empalement of Contractors for Electrical Works viz. Replacement, Upgradation of HT Panel, Transformers at IDBI Tower Cuffe Parade Mumbai. For details, please visit Bank's website www.idbibank.in or contact to 022-665526297 66553016 **Last date** for submission of tender is **January 21 2025 at 3.00 PM**. Any further Clarification in respect of the above shall be posted on Bank's website and no separate notification shall be issued in the newspapers.

Sd/-
GM (HRD)

B-812 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-mail: ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

 NORTHERN RAILWAY 	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of Work and its location	30-Elect-5&T 2024-25-E3 Electrical work in connection with Repair of defective solar plant, solar water heater (SWH), solar pumps and solar street light and CAMC of above plant over Delhi Division.
Approx. cost of the work in	Rs. 207.08 Lacs
Address of the office	Sr Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs. 253600.00
Date & time of submission of tender	27.01.2025, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	27.01.2025, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.irpe.gov.in & Sr Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
3991/2024	

TAMIL NADU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
TENDER NOTICE - TNPDC/SW/PS/SW-03/2024

TNPDC invites offers from Utilities / Traders (Bidders) for banding of power on a short term basis to supply of power to TNPDC from 01.03.2025 to 31.05.2025, and return of Non-Stop/Peak Hour power by TNPDC from 01.6.2025 to 30.09.2025. The offer should reach the office on or before 13.01.2025 at 12.00 hrs and will be opened at 15:00 hrs on the same day in the office of Chief Engineer / Private Power Projects, TNPDC, 2nd Floor, MLDC Building, 144, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002.

Specification is available in TNPDC Website viz., www.tnpdc.co.gov.in

DPR/5724/Tender/2024

Bd- 100X
 Chief Engineer/PPP, TNPDC

CAD-2035	
	<p align="center">The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited</p> <p align="center">D-2, Ashil Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751002 PH NO. : 8674 25 4680/30, 2540273, 25 48417, 25 40974 Email ID : omfed@yahoo.com</p>
<p>www.omsfed.com</p>	<p align="right">Date: 01.01.2025</p>

**PROVISION OF ELEPHANT
INTRUSION DETECTION
SYSTEM**

**Tender Notice No. N_10_HQ_2024-
25;** dtd., 28-12-2024. E-Tender is
invited by the undersigned for the following
work, **Tender No. N_10_HQ_IDS_2024-
25. Name of work : Provision of Elephant
Intrusion Detection System for detection of
elephant movements with tracking and
Level crossing alerts to increase Safety
and capacity enhancement over N F
Railway in Kothar and Aripudur
Division. Advertised Value :
₹37 42 88 75 88/- Earnest Money :
₹20.21 500/- Date & time of closing of
tender at 16:00 hrs on 24-01-2025 For
complete information with the tender
document of above e-tender will be
available in website www.mreps.gov.in**

GR (S&T), Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
The Deputy Chief Engineer /Const./Northern Railway Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Two-Package system for the following work:	
1 Name of work and location:	"Construction of Multi Store Residential Type-II Quarters (112 Units, Type-II Quarters (24 Units) & Type-IV Quarters (8 Units), Fire Fighting Arrangement for 112 nos. Type-II Quarters, 24 nos. Type-III Quarters, and 08 nos. Type-IV Quarters, circulating area, landscaping horticulture works etc. and other miscellaneous allied work in c/w Development of Coaching and freight Handling Terminal at Bijnawas of Delhi Division of Northern Railway.
2 Completion period of the work.	12 (Twelve) months
3 Approx. Cost of work.	Rs. 4667.07 Lakh.
4 Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 24.83,500/-
5 Sale-availability of tender document on City Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 07/01/2025 to 21/01/2025 upto 11:30 hrs
6 Last date/Time of upload of tenders	21/01/2025 upto 11:30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f 07/01/2025 to 21/01/2025
7 Date and time of opening of tender	21/01/2025 at 11:30 hours

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

जिला कार्यालय जालंधार, पी-2, सैक्टर-ओपेन-1, गेट नं. 1, चण्डा रोड, गीतमबुद्ध नगर, 201308 (ब.ह.)
Toll Free No. 18001808296 वेबसाइट: www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com

पत्रांक: वाई ई ए / मूलख / 1082 / 2024

दिनांक: 30.12.2024

सार्वजनिक सूचना

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा ग्राम तकीपुर बागर व चकजलालाबाद के सी. 22ई में आने वाले 120 मी. चौड़ी सड़क व सी. 24ए के अन्तर्गत आने वाली ग्राम का सुनियाजित विकास हेतु सम्बन्धित कृषकों द्वारा दी गयी सहमति की दर रु. 2728/- प्रति वग मी. से प्राधिकरण द्वारा शासनादेश संख्या 314/77 3 163एम दिनांक 23.02.2016 में तय प्रक्रियानुसार निम्नानुसार क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है।

ग्राम तकीपुर बागर, रामपुर खादर व कुरैव सैक्टर- 22ई व सी-24ए के,

मुखण्ड संख्या 1बी, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 पार्स, 45 बी, 40 बी, 30 मी. रोड के अन्तर्गत

क्रमांक	सै / ग्राम का नाम	खसरा संख्या	खसरे का कुल क्षेत्रफल (हे. मे.)	खसरे का नाम व पता	तहसील से प्राप्त रिपोर्ट के आधार पर काश्तकार का हिस्सा (हे. मे.)	काश्तकार का विक्रय हेतु क्षेत्रफल (हे. मे.)	
1	तकीपुर बागर	118	243/1	0 2530	जयचन्द पुत्र रामजीलाल नि. नीलीनी शाहपुर, पर. धनकोर तह. सदर, गीतमबुद्धनगर।	1/2	0 1265
2	तकीपुर बागर	118	243/1	0 2530	कुसुम पत्नी जयचन्द नि. सी.सी.नी शाहपुर गीतमबुद्धनगर।	1/2	0 1265
3	रामपुर खादर	190	37	0 2920	रमेश पुत्र राम सिंह निवासी कादरपुर गीतमबुद्धनगर।	1/3	0 0973
4	रामपुर खादर	65	47	1 4170	शैलदास पुत्र श्री रामलाल जैसवाल निवासी पार्स-4 फंस-1 मण्डलीहार जिला सरोला खादर पूर्वी दिल्ली	म. से	0 1686
5	कुरैव	02	400	3 8990	राजन्द निवासी पुत्र श्यामलाल सिंह निवासी ग्राम करानी बागर गीतमबुद्धनगर।	म. से	0 0778
6	तकीपुर बागर	103	134	0 9800	सजय कुमार पुत्र ईश्वरदास अग्रवाल व रामशंकर अग्रवाल पुत्र ईश्वरदास अग्रवाल निवासी सम्राट पैलस गढ़ राउ गंधी ग्रामम मरठ	म. से	0 6005
7	तकीपुर बागर	258	134	0 9800	सजीव महान पुत्र ब्रजमहान गुना निवासी बकान नं. 1380 शिवधौक बागपत रोड मेरठ।	म. से	0 2741
8	तकीपुर बागर	177	34/1	0 6200	रमेशचन्द पुत्र रामसाहाय नि. ग्राम चकजलालाबाद पर व तह. जवर, गीतमबुद्धनगर।	सम्पूर्ण ग्राम	0 6200
9	तकीपुर बागर	28 18	111 112	0 6580 0 6450	श्रीमती कुसुम पत्नी निवासी नि. गुनारता जैलानी रवपुरा परगना व तहसील जवर जिला गीतमबुद्धनगर।	1/3 1/6	0 2193 0 1075
10	तकीपुर बागर	17	78/1	1 6230	सुरेश सिंह पुत्र हीरो सिंह निवासी ग्राम मी. शम्भूनी नगर कस्बा रवपुरा परगना व तहसील जवर जिला गीतमबुद्धनगर।	म. से	0 4216

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रय किया जाना है यदि कोई व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है ता वह लिखित रूप में 15 दिन के अन्दर अधोस्तान्तरिकी को अपनी आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे प्राधिकरण

नम्र प्रार्थना है कि जनता को सूचित किया जा रहा है कि यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे प्राधिकरण द्वारा जारी की गई सूचनाओं को ध्यान से पढ़ना चाहिए। यदि कोई व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह लिखित रूप में 15 दिन के अन्दर अधोस्तान्तरिकी को अपनी आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-TENDER NOTICE		
Sr Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender for its under noted work		
1	Name of work with its Location	Design supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE in connection with PART A Raising of platform at BBDE BZK BZJT, GRA, MOY, TRR, DHKR, DPP SHDM and extension of platform at BBDE BZK BZJT GRA stations on DUK section PART-B Raising and extension of platform on DSA-SMQL-SRE section
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,44,84,498.38
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,22,400/-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	17 01 2025 (00:00 Hrs.) to 31 01 2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	31 01 2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	20537'03
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.iraps.gov.in


Bihar Public Service Commission
 15, Nehru Path (Bailey Road), Patna - 800 001 (BIHAR)

Notice for e-tender

E-Tender response invited from experienced agencies to provide **CCTV SURVEILLANCE SERVICE** during multiple examinations being conducted by BPSC throughout the state. For further details, bid documents with all timelines please visit the website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> Last date of submission of bid is **30.01.2025 till 3:00 PM**

Bidders can participate in this tender only through ONLINE mode.

NIT NO.	CCTV//01/2025
Publication Date and Time	01.01.2025 and 3.00 PM
Last date for submission of written queries for clarifications	14.01.2025 and 6 PM Website: https://bpsc.bih.nic.in , e-mail: bpscpat-bih@nic.in
Date and Time of pre-bid Conference Mode	15.01.2025 and 3:00 PM Offline
Address	BIHAR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Non-Refundable Tender Fee/Cost	INR 10,000 only (exclusive of taxes) (Rupees Ten thousand only) payable online through e-Procurement
Last date (deadline) for submission of bids	30.01.2025 3:00 PM
Opening of General & Technical Bids	30.01.2025 4:00 PM

Sd/-
Secretary
Bihar Public Service Commission
Patna



भारत सरकार Government of India
भारत परमाणु अनुसंधान केंद्र
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
मानव संसाधन विकास प्रभाग
Human Resource Development Division



एचबीएनआर एकमंडाव विभागेद्वारा क तत्वावधान मे जुलाई-2025 से आरम्भ होने वाले मानव संसाधन केंद्र के डीडीएफएस कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश के लिए इन्वीटेशन परामर्श के माध्यम से पीएचडी करने के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

Invites applications from Engineering Postgraduates for admission to DDFS programme of BARC for pursuing PhD, commencing from July-2025 under the aegis of HBNI, a Deemed to be University.

चयन चक्र द्वि-चरणीय प्रक्रिया है: 1 ऑनलाइन कंप्यूटर आधारित परीक्षा (सीबीटी) और स्नातकोत्तर शैक्षणिक रिकॉर्ड के माध्यम से चयन साक्षात्कार के लिए स्क्रीनिंग और 2 चयन साक्षात्कार में प्रदर्शन **अंतिम चयन केवल चयन साक्षात्कार में योग्यता के आधार पर किया जाएगा।** मैकेनिकल, कैमिकल, मेटलर्जिकल/मेटलियर्स, इलेक्ट्रिकल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, कंप्यूटर, इन्स्ट्रुमेंटेशन और सिविल इन्जीनियरिंग में एम.ई./एम टेक/समकक्ष डिग्री वाले अभ्यर्थियों से केवल ऑनलाइन आवेदन स्वीकार किए जाएंगे। एमसीए/आईटी डिग्री वाले अभ्यर्थी पास नहीं करेंगे। सफल छात्रों को एचबीएनआर के चार सघटक स्थानों (सीआई) में से एक में प्रवेश दिया जाएगा: भाषा केंद्र मुंबई, आईसीआर कल्याण, आईपीएआर गांधीनगर एव आईसीसी कोलकाता (सर्वोपर्य)। छात्रों को **80,000/- रुपये प्रति माह की अध्ययनवृत्ति और 60,000/- रुपये का वार्षिक आकस्मिक अनुदान** दिया जाएगा। डीडीएफएस अभ्यर्थियों (केवल शोध छात्रों) के लिए सीएचएसएस के तहत थिंकिंग लाइव भी उपलब्ध हैं। पीएचडी कार्यक्रम के दौरान छात्रावास में रहना अनिवार्य है।

Selection is a two-step process: 1. Screening in to Selection Interview through online Computer Based Test (CBT) & post-graduation academic record and 2. Performance in Selection Interview. Final Selection will be based on Selection Interview merit only. Only online applications will be accepted from Candidates with M/E/M Tech/Equivalent Degree in Mechanical, Chemical, Metallurgical / Materials, Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Instrumentation Civil Engineering Candidates with MCA/IT degree are not eligible. The selected students will be admitted to one of the four Constituent Institutions (CI) of HBNI, BARC Mumbai, IGCAR Kalpakkam, IPR Gandhinagar and VECC Kolkata. The selected students will be awarded Fellowships of 80,000/- per month and an annual contingency grant of 60,000/-. Medical benefits under CHSS are also available for DDFS candidate (research scholar only). Hostel accommodation is mandatory during PhD programme.

अर्हता डिग्री अभ्यर्थियों को भारत का नागरिक होना चाहिए एम.ई./एम. टेक/समकक्ष डिग्री के साथ-साथ बी.ई./बी. टेक में न्यूनतम 60 प्रतिशत अंक होने चाहिए। एम.ई./एम. टेक के अंतिम सेमेस्टर के अभ्यर्थी भी आवेदन कर सकते हैं, लेकिन यदि ऐसे अभ्यर्थियों का चयन किया जाता है, तो उन्हें 30 दिसंबर, 2025 तक अपनी मास्टर डिग्री के प्रमाण पत्र और अंक पत्र उपलब्ध कराने होंगे।

Qualifying Degree: Candidates must be Indian citizen and have minimum 60% Marks in M/E/M Tech/Equivalent Degree as well as B.E./B.Tech. Candidates in the final semester of M/E/M Tech may also apply but such candidates, if selected, must provide certificates and mark sheets of their Master Degree by December 30, 2025

आयु सीमा: 1 अगस्त, 2025 को आयु सीमा 28 वर्ष है। अतः सामान्य श्रेणी के अभ्यर्थी का जन्म 1 अगस्त, 1997 को या उससे बाद हुआ होना चाहिए। आयु सीमा में ओबीसी-एनसीएल के लिए तीन वर्ष और एससी/एसटी आवेदकों के लिए पांच वर्ष की छूट है। इन्वीटेशन परामर्शालय में सकारात्मक लिपि भिन्न अद्यतनित के पीएचडी करने के इच्छुक अभ्यर्थियों के लिए आयु सीमा 1 अगस्त, 2025 को 40 वर्ष है। सभी श्रेणियों के दियामा व्यक्ति (40 प्रतिशत या उससे अधिक दियामा) के लिए 10 वर्ष की जतिरिक्त आयु छूट के लिए पात्र हैं।

Age limit: The age limit is 28 yrs. as on Aug. 1, 2025 and hence should have been born on or after Aug. 1, 1997 for general category. Age limit is relaxable by three years for OBC-NCL and by five years for SC/ST applicants. The age limit for faculty in Engineering Colleges who are desirous of pursuing a PhD without Fellowship is 40 years as on Aug. 1, 2025 Persons with Disability (with 40% or more disability) of all categories are eligible for additional age relaxation of 10 years.

ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने के लिए <https://www.barcsexam.com> को देखते रहें।

To Apply Online, visit the website <https://www.barcsexam.com>

* ऑनलाइन आवेदन पोर्टल आरम्भ होने की तिथि: 1 जनवरी, 2025

Launch of Online Application Portal: Jan. 1, 2025

* स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा (सीबीटी): 3 एवं 4 मार्च 2025

Screening Examination (CBT): 3rd & 4th March 2025

* आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि: 26 जनवरी, 2025


Last Date for Online Application: Jan. 26, 2025

* चयन प्रक्रिया के लिए 2025 Selection Interviews: June 2025




सभी लिखित/प्रायोगिक लिखित/एच और अन्य अभ्यर्थियों को अद्यतन सूचना के लिए नियमित रूप से वेबसाइट को देखते रहें।

<https://www.barcsexam.in> वेबसाइट पर विजिट करने की आवश्यकता है। All dates are tentative and candidates are required to regularly visit the website <https://www.barcsexam.in> for updates



यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

प्रथम तल, कॉन्फिडेंसल ऑफिस बिल्डिंग, ओबीएस-1 (पी-2), गेट नं०एच
Toll Free No. 18001808290 वेबसाइट : www.yamunaeexpresswayauthority.com



पत्रांक : YEIDA/GM(P)/2024/991 ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना दिनांक 31.12.2024

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्र सरकार / राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र शासित / अर्द्धशासक / सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों के कार्यों का कम से कम चार वर्ष का अनुभव रखने वाले ठेकेदारों/ फर्मों से ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।
ई-प्रोक्वायरमेंट पोर्टल यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे डिस्ट्रिक्टरी पद्धति से खोली जायेगी।

कार्यलय आदेश प्रक्रिया आई ई ए / GM(P)/2024/990 दिनांक 31.12.2024 के अनुपालन में यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण की कार्य में सिविदाकार द्वारा बिल ऑफ क्वांटिटि (बीओओक्यू) पर डाले गये 10 प्रतिशत कम दरों तक 0.5 प्रतिशत प्रति एक प्रतिशत कम दर पर तथा उसके पश्चात 10 प्रतिशत से अधिक कम दरों पर 1.00 प्रतिशत प्रति एक प्रतिशत कम दर पर रिस्काग्रिटी/परफॉरमेंस गारंटी प्राप्त की जायेगी तथा परफॉरमेंस गारंटी एक0डी0आर0/सी0डी0आर0/बीक गारंटी/एन0एस0सी0 के रूप में न्यूनतम सिविदाकार द्वारा अनुबन्ध गठन से पूर्ण देनी होगी, जो कार्य के अंतिम बीजक होने के बाद वापिस होगी।

क्रम सं.	कार्य का नाम/ वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
1.	Pond Rejuvenation in Village- Bankapur and Dustampur,YEA WC-06	₹0 37.90 लाख
2.	Pach Repair work of 60mtr wide Road and 75mtr wide (Road No-13) Between Sector-28 and 29 YEA WC-04	₹0 11.72 लाख
3.	Annual Jungle Cleaning of Internal road palm pocket-R.S.Y and U Sec-20 YEA WC-02	₹0 25.59 लाख
4.	Maintenance of 75mtr wide road between sector 28 and 29 (Road no-13) YEA WC-4	₹0 07.31 लाख
5.	Construction of Shamshan Ghat in Village –Turhali Kheda, YEA WC-6	₹0 27.15 लाख
6.	Providing and laying interlocking tiles and R.c.c Drain work main road side in Village-Jewar Banger,YEA WC-6	₹0 40.47 लाख

जिनके दिनांक 07.01.2025 से 17.01.2025 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्ता ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 20.01.2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

क्रम सं.	कार्य का नाम/ वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
7.	Providing and fixing of interlocking tile work In Village-Akalpur (Including Construction of Drain) YEIDA WC-06	₹0 11.63 लाख
8.	Construction of 01Nos tubewell Rising main pumping house near bikano, surya gao and other plot in sector -29, YEIDA WC-04	₹0 88.63 लाख
9.	Providing and fixing G.I chain link fabric fencing and brick chamber work in pond in village Ahmadpur choroli Dyorar and Jewar banger, YEA WC-06	₹0 23.49 लाख
10.	Supplying and stacking of bhusa for chanchal gaushala ,YEA (2024-2025) WC-06	₹0 31.54 लाख
11.	Supply of tractor with trolley and sweeper hire for cleaning of affordable house of block A and B and LIG and MIG in sector 22D YEA. WC-02	₹0 36.98 लाख
12.	Maintenance work of water supply in affordable houses sector 22D (Block-B)YEIDA WC-02	₹0 27.10 लाख

जिनके दिनांक 08.01.2025 से 17.01.2025 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्ता ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 20.01.2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

क्रम सं.	कार्य का नाम/ वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
13.	Modification and maintenance Under operation kayakalp for J H S and P.S. Balance work in (Zone-08) phase-2 YEIDA	₹0 285.00 लाख
14.	Cleaning and Sweeping work in 46 Village- (Zone-05, 07, 08 and 09) of YEA One year WC-06	₹0 702.11 लाख

जिनके दिनांक 09.01.2025 से 22.01.2025 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्ता ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 24.01.2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

1 निविदा प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश इलेक्ट्रॉनिक कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखे जा सकते हैं। इसका ठेकेदारों से अनुरोध है कि वे निष्पक्ष रुप से उक्त वेबसाइट को देखते रहें क्योंकि निविदाओं के सम्बन्ध में कोई बदलाव अथवा अतिरिक्त सूचना वेबसाइट पर ही उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

महाप्रबन्धक (परियोजना)

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिष्ठाता क्षेत्र में प्राधिकरण द्वारा स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान के अधिष्ठित फोर्टिफ़ / सुविधाएं / कॉलोनी का निर्माण भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह से जारी है। सामान्यजन इन प्रकार के सरकारी कल्याण के मुद्दों संबंधित रक्षा कर्त्तव्यकार के प्रादिक विज्ञापनों से बचे। अधिक जानकारी के लिए प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.yamunaeexpresswayauthority.com देखें।

[illegible]


Government of Maharashtra
STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL
RESEARCH AND TRAINING
MAHARASHTRA, PUNE
708, Kumthekar Road, Sadashiv Peth,
Pune-411030

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited for the supply of Secondary level mathematics kits in the selected Government /local body schools by Director, SCERT, Maharashtra, Pune and will be received in the form of Tenders up to **05:00 PM on 16/01/2025**. E-tender documents be will available at <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from **31/12/2024 at 05:00 PM**.

Sd/-
Rahul Rekhwari (IAS) Director,
State Council of Educational Research and
Training, Maharashtra, Pune

DGIPR 2024-25/5333

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL
CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF
EXCISE, ENT. & LUXURY TAX
L & N BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P.
ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has approved revision of the MRP (Maximum Retail Price) of Quarts (750 ml), Pints (375 ml) and Nips (180 ml) of Spiced Country Liquor, to be sold through the Licensed Country Liquor Vends, in the National Capital Territory of Delhi for the year 2024-25 w.e.f. 01.01.2025 (Wednesday) as per details given below:

Sizes	Quart (750 ml.)	Pint (375 ml.)	Nip (180 ml.)
MRP (in Rs.)	200/-	100/-	50/-

For more details, please visit the website <https://excise.delhi.gov.in/> or <https://eabkari.delhi.gov.in/>.

Sd/-
(RAVI JHA)

COMMISSIONER (EXCISE)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0344/24-25

Bytes Under Siege: India's 2024 Cyber Challenge

India's cybersecurity landscape in 2024 faced significant challenges, with critical sectors like finance, healthcare, and govt under relentless attack. As a key player in global cyber trends, India's resilience and evolving strategies continue to shape its defence narrative.



DATA BREACHES IN INDIA

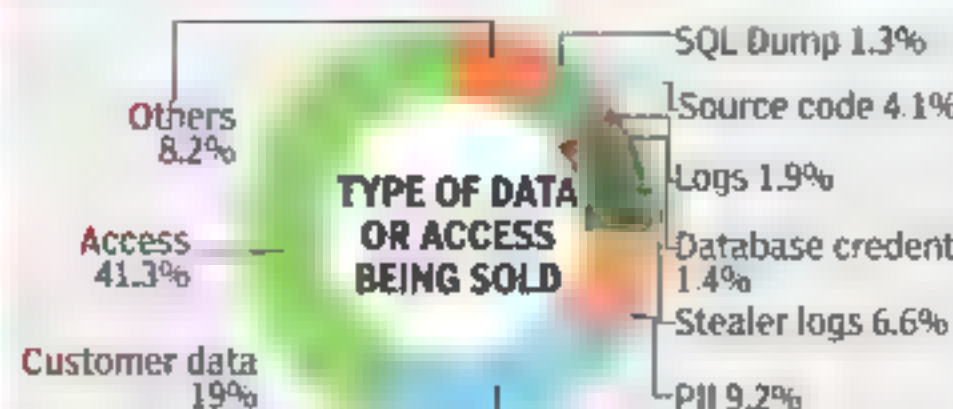
- 850mn records breached at Hi-Tek Group, a debt collection agency
- 2TB of data leaked from Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)
- Other significant incidents: Star Health Insurance breach and Shell's data loss

DATA SOLD BY THREAT ACTORS

- 12,332 GB of Indian data sold in 2024, with 44 bn lines of records compromised

INDIA AMONG TOP TARGETS

- Ranked second globally for cyberattacks, trailing only the US



SECTORAL TRENDS WORLDWIDE

- Ransomware targeting sectors globally: Manufacturing (16.3%), construction (12.1%), and healthcare (10.8%) led the victim list
- 995 TB of data stolen globally



Gold set to extend record run, may hit ₹90k/10gm in 2025

New Delhi: Gold, a safe-haven bet, is likely to continue its record-smashing journey in 2025, rising to Rs 85,000 per 10 gram and even Rs 90,000 if geopolitical tensions and global economic uncertainties continue. Experts see gold to be a strong performer in 2025 as well, buoyed by central bank purchases and a pivot towards lower interest rates by major central banks. Outlook for gold in 2025 remains positive, though pace of growth may moderate, LKP Securities VP research analyst — commodity, Jateen Trivedi said. AGENCIES



Now, you can file revised ITR by Jan 15

New Delhi: Last date for filing Income Tax Return for 2023-24 was July 31, and for those who could not, the time was for filing a revised ITR with late fees was Dec 31. But now, CBDT has extended this deadline to Jan 15. As last date for filing GST return is Dec 31, GST-registered taxpayers will have to submit it to consolidate annual transactions. AGENCIES

Factory activity in China slows in Dec

Hong Kong: China's factory activity expanded at a slower pace in Dec, official data showed, despite stimulus steps and in face of increasing trade risks. The Purchasing Managers' Index, based on a survey of factory managers, slipped to 50.1 in Dec from 50.3 in Nov, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Tuesday. AGENCIES

A Clarification

Tata Motors has clarified that it had "pro-actively taken a price reduction up to Rs 3 lakh on the Nexon EV, passing on benefits of battery price reduction to its customers" in Sept. It is not a price discount as mentioned in the story 'EVs on discount as stock piles up' which appeared in TOI's Dec 31, 2024 edition.

figure it out

At 183% increase, Argentina leads in food price surge. It also has the highest food inflation forecast for next year's second quarter at 120%.



Source: Visual Capitalist

10-min delivery boom: Cos to watch out for profit, regulatory hiccups

Q-Comm's Rapid Growth May See Speed Bumps In Smaller Cities

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: From stocking up on breakfast staples like milk and eggs, packs of noodles and chips to satisfy midnight cravings and buying iPhone 16 at the tip of their smartphones, Indians shopped their way through quick commerce platforms last year.

10-minute deliveries will continue to be the flavour of 2025 as companies add more categories, expanding consumer use cases, people especially in the bigger metros do not mind paying some extra amount to get grocery and other supplies delivered at their doorstep and save up time. But as players spend billions of

dollars to scale up and enter smaller cities, all of which may not fetch high returns on investment, their profitability may come under pressure.

Potential regulatory challenges could be another area firms may have to navigate in the New Year amid demand from trade groups to inspect quick commerce companies for alleged violation of FDI norms and putting small kiranas out of business.

Earlier this week, the commerce and industry ministry met with firms, the first among a series of such meetings to under-

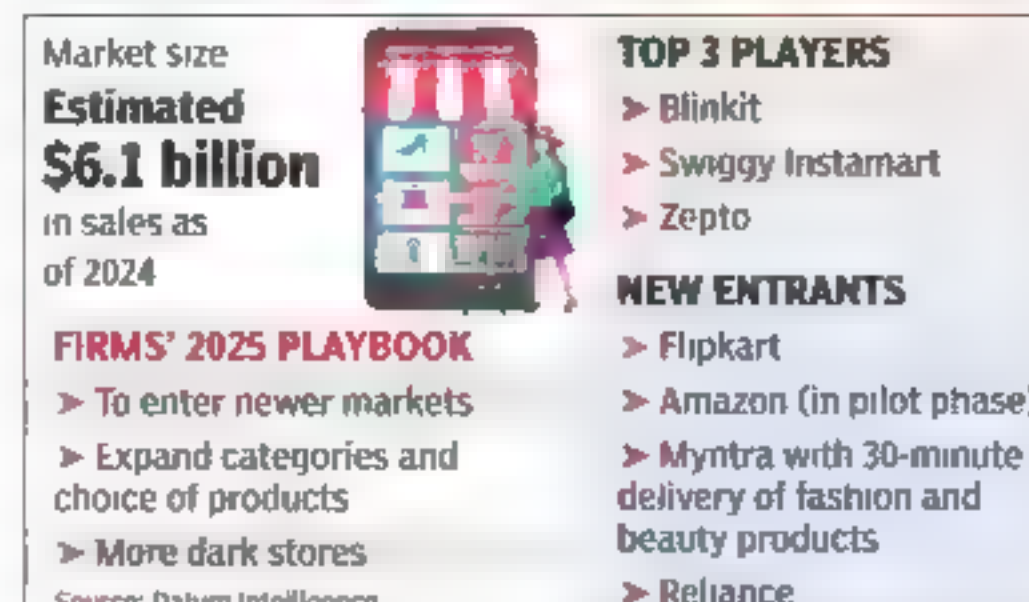
stand their business models and seek comments on complaints levelled against them by FMCG distributors' association and other industry bodies, sources told TOI.

Purchases of electronics, small appliances and kitchen appliances will increasingly shift to quick commerce platforms going ahead, said analysts. In fact, a wider selection of products has already helped companies expand their average order value (AOV). From about Rs 300-350 before, AOVs have increased to Rs 450-600, said Shivraj Jayakumar, practice leader, consumer and internet

at Praxis Global Alliance.

Over the years, companies in the space have quickly moved beyond grocery to deliver

Electronics Will Shift To Quick Commerce



a host of non-grocery items to consumers with some of them like Zepto now testing the potential of 10-minute food delivery with the launch of a separate cafe app. For FMCG companies, about 30% of the online sales have already moved to quick commerce. "From consumers' point of

view, there is definitely the need for quick commerce. The platforms offer a lot of convenience," said Jayakumar. The growth of rapid deliveries has nudged e-commerce giants Flipkart, Amazon and even fashion player Myntra to foray into the space. "Myntra has made the move at the right

time. Quick commerce is growing fast and even if 10% of the fashion sales move to the 10-minute delivery platforms, it will be challenging for Myntra. They have to be there," said Satish Meena, adviser at Datum Intelligence. Already companies ranging from Fabindia and Decathlon to Bata have launched their selection on quick commerce platforms with more brands queuing up to take a bite of rapid deliveries.

The rising influence of the Gen Z in terms of dictating household spends will continue to fuel appetite for quick commerce and companies will only leverage this trend. "Consumption patterns are changing. The younger lot is much more impatient and companies are trying to capture this cohort because the market size then increases for them," said an industry executive. Quick com-

merce sector is estimated to surpass \$6 billion in sales in 2024 from \$3.5 billion in 2023, industry data suggests. "In 2025, consumers will have access to an even broader selection of general merchandise—from pharma, electronics and fashion to kitchen essentials delivered to their doorstep in 10 minutes," said a Swiggy Instamart spokesperson adding that the company will set up bigger dark stores in tier one and two cities, equipped to house over 50,000 products.

The sector seems to be on a good streak and companies have found favour with investors—Zepto alone bagged over \$1 billion in funding in 2024; however, as companies plot their expansion by entering smaller cities, profitability will be a challenge. "People in smaller cities do not consume very high AOV categories. For instance, an item like liquid detergent which is popular in metros offer better margins than detergent which finds space in more households in smaller cities," said Jayakumar. Beyond cities like Kochi, Jaipur which house tech talent with spending power, scaling in tier two and three cities may be difficult and as companies expand, profitability may be a challenge which is what happened with food delivery as well, said analysts. Major players Swiggy (Instamart separately is also in losses) and Zepto's businesses remains in the red, filings showed. While Swiggy posted consolidated losses of Rs 625 crore in the Sept quarter, higher sequentially, Zepto's FY24 losses stood at Rs 1,200 crore. Blinkit reported higher adjusted EBITDA losses in Q2 sequentially.

D-St bull run loses steam on FPI selloff in volatile yr

Sensex Rises 8% In 2024, Slides 9% From Sept-End High

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

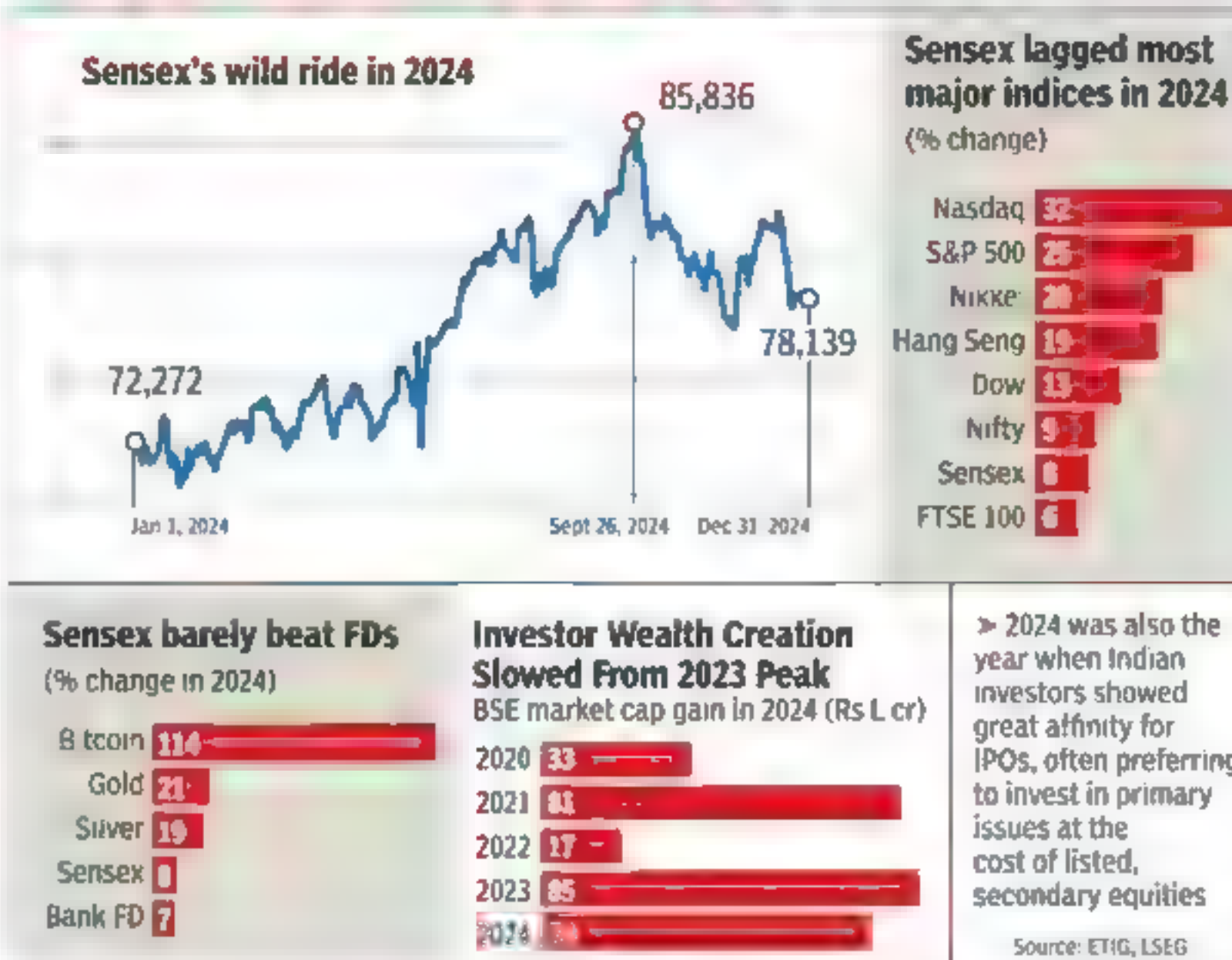
Mumbai: For Dalal Street investors, 2024 is a story of two parts, unequally divided. During the first nine months, the two leading indices—the Sensex and Nifty—scaled new highs at regular intervals. And then came a sudden burst of foreign fund selling that shaved off a large chunk of the gains from the earlier month.

As a result, the two leading indices, after recording its all time highs at 85,878 points and 26,277 points in end-Sept, fell sharply in the next two months. And after a volatile Dec, on Tuesday the Sensex closed at 78,139 points (up 8%) and Nifty at 23,645 points (up 9%)—one of the lowest yearly returns in recent years.

According to Sheetal Malpani, chief investment officer & head of equity, Tamohara Investment Managers, a Sebi-registered portfolio manager, in 2024, the first half saw some good demand for stocks which took benchmark indices higher. In the second half, there was adequate supply in the form of a large number of IPOs and public offers, which in a way led to subdued annual returns.

Malpani expects some correction in 2025, either a price correction (where the prices move southward to ad-

ONE OF LOWEST ANNUAL RETURNS IN RECENT YEARS



just for the valuations to come down to reasonable levels, or a time correction (where prices remain constant but earnings growth, over a few quarters, adjust the valuations to come down to reasonable levels). There is also a possibility for both the corrections to kick in in phases. "Since April 2020

new investors have not seen any reasonable correction in the stock market. So, it needs to be seen how the new lot behaves during a corrective phase," Malpani said.

The year also witnessed investors remaining more bullish on small and midcap stocks over blue chips. According to data from NSE,

compared to single-digit percentage return by nifty, its midcap 50 index returned 21.5% while the smallcap 50 returned a little over 25%.

2024 was also the year when Indian investors showed great affinity for IPOs, often preferring to invest in primary issues at the cost of listed, secondary equities.

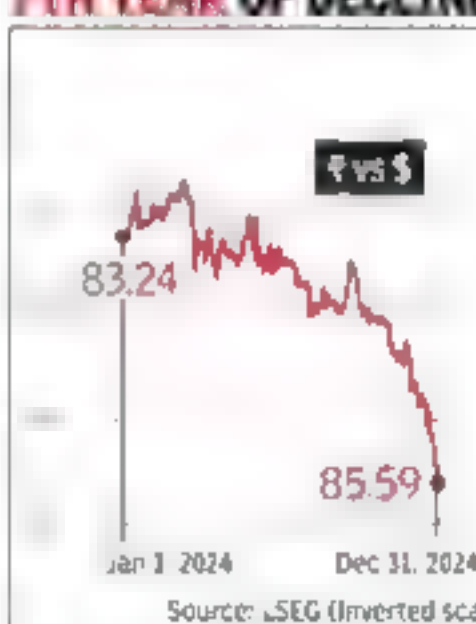
Rupee plunges nearly 3% in 2024, from 83.24 to record low of 85.59/\$

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee ended 2024 on a weaker note, depreciating 2.8% against the US dollar to close the year at 85.59, down from Monday's close of 84.54. This marked the seventh consecutive year of decline for the Indian currency. Dealers attributed the year-end drop to a possible shift in RBI's forex intervention strategy, which may have allowed a slight correction in the rupee, keeping it among the least depreciated emerging market currencies.

Throughout the year, the US dollar strengthened against most major currencies. It gained 11.1% versus the Japanese yen, 3.1% against the South African rand, 27% versus the Brazilian real, 22% aga-

7TH YEAR OF DECLINE



inst the Mexican peso, 13.7% versus the Korean won, 4.5% against the Indonesian rupiah, 4.7% versus the Philippine peso, 3.27% against the Singapore dollar, and 6.7% versus the Taiwanese dollar. The rupee remained relatively stable in the first half

of the year, buoyed by capital inflows following the inclusion of Indian bonds in global bond indices. A brief spell of volatility in June, triggered by election results, was short-lived. However, the currency began to weaken in Sept as FPIs adopted a "sell-India-buy-China" strategy, leading to a decline in market indices and additional pressure on the rupee. The victory of US President-elect Donald Trump in Nov led to the dollar gaining against most currencies worldwide.

The most significant depreciation occurred in the fourth quarter, with the rupee weakening 2.2% during this period. On Dec 27, the currency hit an intraday low of 85.81. RBI intervened frequently to stabilise the rupee, drawing

down forex reserves, which peaked at \$704.9 billion before falling by \$60.5 billion by the end of the year.

Foreign portfolio investors pulled \$11.7 billion from Indian equities in the fourth quarter, compared to \$12 billion in inflows during the first nine months. For 2024 net equity inflows totalled Rs 5,000 crore, a steep drop from Rs 17 lakh crore in 2023.

Analysts pointed to structural factors contributing to the rupee's depreciation, such as inflation differentials between India and the US and India's persistent current account deficit, driven by its dependence on oil and gold imports. However, the pace of depreciation in the coming year is expected to hinge on the level of capital flows.

\$31bn: Startup funding falls to lowest level since 2019

Yogesh.Kabirdoss@timesofindia.com

Chennai: 2024 ended with private equity-venture capital (PE-VC) investments of \$31.1 billion, the lowest since 2019 in India. The cumulative investments were down by 5.5% when compared with 2023, which accounted for \$32.9 billion, the second lowest in the past six years. However, the number of deals exceeded 1,000, from 943 a year ago (in 2023). The PE investments compiled exclude those from the real estate sector. Dec recorded an investment of \$2.2 billion, data released by research firm Venture Intelligence showed.

Nearly \$9 billion of PE-VC investments comprising 165 deals was made in late stage companies that are more than 10 years old, series-G or later rounds of institutional investments. It is followed by investments in growth PE stage companies at \$6.3 billion involving 136 deals. Growth PE are seen to series-D investments, wherein the investments are more than \$20 million and companies are less than a decade old. Brookfield's over \$2 billion deal with ATC India in Jan was the largest PE-VC investment in 2024. "2024 witnessed 74 mega deals (valued above \$100 million) accounting for deals worth \$20.7 billion, compared to 75 such investments worth \$23.2 billion in 2023. The highlight of the year was, of course, how receptive the public markets have been to IPOs of PE-VC backed companies like Swiggy and Ola Electric," Arun Natarajan, founder, Venture Intelligence told TOI.

Family settlement: Kirloskar cos to challenge Sebi

New Delhi: Four Kirloskar companies on Tuesday said they are preparing to legally challenge a letter by markets regulator Sebi, asking them to disclose the deed of family settlement that was signed by members of the Kirloskar family on Sept 11, 2008.

In separate regulatory filings, Kirloskar Ferrous Industries (KFI), Kirloskar Industries (KIL), Kirloskar Pneumatic Company and Kirloskar Oil Engines maintained they are not bound by deed of family settlement (DFS) nor does it have any impact or create any restriction or liability on them.

Sebi in a letter dated Dec 30, 2024 advised the companies to disclose the DFS, entered into among the members of the Kirloskar family in their personal capacity, under the Sebi listing obligations and disclosure requirements regulations, they said.

Kirloskar siblings, with Sanjay (Kirloskar Brothers CMD) on one side and Atul and Rahul on the other, have been in a feud since 2016 over the DFS for the assets of the more than 130-year-old Kirloskar group. Rahul Kirloskar is the executive chairman of Kirloskar Pneumatic and Atul Kirloskar is the executive chairman of Kirloskar Oil Engines.

The question of whether the DFS is binding on them, is pending before the civil court since 2018, the Kirloskar companies claimed adding "despite this Sebi has

opined on matters that are sub-judice. Further, Sebi's decision not only contains factual inaccuracies but is in complete ignorance of... settled principles of contract law, corporate laws and company law". Further, the companies asserted that they maintained the stand that they are not bound by the DFS nor does the DFS have any impact on them separately or create any restriction or liability on them.

Therefore, the companies said they are "not required to disclose the same" under the Sebi listing obligations and disclosure requirements regulations. Each company said they are "in the process of availing its legal remedies to challenge the said Sebi letter by filing appropriate legal proceedings".

Sebi in its letter stated that "since the DFS is subsisting in nature, indirectly creates a restriction on the listed entities managed/promoted by the parties to such DFS, warrants disclosure, regardless of whether such listed entity is a party to the agreement or not" under relevant provisions and advised the company "to disclose the DFS in terms of LODR regulations".

Sanjay Kirloskar had filed a complaint for non-disclosure of the DFS. KOEL on Sept 11, 2023 responded to the NSE that it was "an attempt to try and somehow cause KOEL to be bound by the DFS for his own ulterior motives". AGENCIES

Airport embankment in focus after South Korea plane crash

'24 Manual Sought Structure's Review, Saying It Was Too Near To Runway



TRAGEDY AVERTED IN LOS ANGELES: The US FAA has launched a probe after a private jet carrying the Gonzaga University men's basketball team nearly crossed a runway as another flight was taking off Friday at Los Angeles International Airport. Footage of the moment showed Delta Flight 471 was about to take off when an air-traffic controller was heard screaming "Stop, stop, stop!" at the basketball team's charter plane, operated by Key Lime Air. Luckily, the warning worked and no one was hurt

Air safety experts Tuesday questioned the placement of an airport embankment into which a South Korean passenger jet slammed after skidding past the end of the runway, resulting in the country's deadliest domestic air disaster. All 175 passengers and four of the six crew were killed on Sunday when the Jeju Air plane belly-landed at Muan International Airport, ploughed into the sand-and-concrete embankment and burst into a fireball.

What caused the pilot to attempt the landing after declaring an emergency was still under investigation. But comments in the airport's operating manual, uploaded early in 2024, said the embankment was too close to the end of the runway and recommended that the location of the equipment be reviewed during a planned expansion.

A transport ministry official said authorities would need to check the document before replying to questions. Experts criticised the positioning of the embankment, which held navigation equipment. "Unfortunately, that thing was the reason that everybody got killed, because they literally hit a concrete structure," Captain Ross Atmer, the chief executive of Aero Consulting Experts, said.

The Boeing 737-800's "black box" flight data recorder recovered from the crash site was missing a key connector and authorities were reviewing how to extract its data, but retrieval of data from the cockpit voice recorder has begun. Personnel from the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Federal Aviation Administration, and aircraft maker Boeing have joined the investigations.

Transport ministry officials said most South Korean airports were built based on International Civil Aviation Organization rules that recommend a 240m runway-end safety area. However, a domestic law allows adjustments in a range that does not "significantly affect" the facility's performance. "We'll look into whether there are any conflicts in our own regulations," Kim Hong-rak, director general for airport policy, said.

Muan International Airport's operations manual said the navigation equipment, or localisers, had been installed too near the end of the runway, or just 199m from the crash site. The document, prepared by Korea Airports Corp, said the airport authority should "review securing additional distance during phase two of airport expansion". Officials have previously said the structure was about 250m from the end of the runway itself, though a paved apron extends past that.

From bird strike to jet crash: Mystery of 4 fateful minutes

Choe Sang-Hun

Already 30 minutes behind schedule, the pilot flying the Jeju Air jet with 181 people on board was preparing to land at his destination in southwestern South Korea on Sunday morning when the control tower warned him about flocks of birds in the area.



COULD IT HAVE BEEN AVERTED?

Two minutes later, at 8:59am (local time), the pilot reported a "bird strike" and "emergency", officials said. He told the air traffic control tower that he would do "a go-around", meaning he would abort his first landing bid and circle in the air to prepare for a second attempt. But he apparently did not have enough time. Instead, just a minute later, the veteran pilot — with nearly 7,000 flight hours in his career — was approaching the runway from opposite direction, from north to south. And 3 minutes later, at 9:03am, his plane, Jeju Air Flight 7C2216, slammed into a concrete structure off the southern end of the runway in a ball of flames.

All but two of the 181 people on board were killed. As officials were racing to probe the crash, a central question has emerged among analysts: What happened during the 4 minutes between the pilot's urgent report of bird strike and the crash? Footage of the Boeing 737-800 landing at the airport showed it skidding down the runway without its landing gear deployed.

As it hurtled along on its belly, engulfed by what looked like clouds of dust, smoke and sparks, it did not seem able to slow its speed before slamming into the concrete structure 820 feet after the end of the runway. "Why was the pilot in such a hurry to land," said Hwang Hwon, chair of the Korea Association for Aviation Security. When pilots plan to do a belly landing, they usually try to buy time, Hwang said. But the pilot apparently decided that he didn't have such time, he said.

Experts who have watched the footage of the landing said the plane appeared to experience a fatal combination of factors that made the crash far worse than it could have been. The Muan airport normally has a 9,200-foot long runway. But when the Jeju Air plane was landing, only 8,200 feet of it was usable because of construction work underway to extend the runway. (Still, this is long enough for landing 737-800s, officials say.) As it landed, the plane's pilot also appeared unable to control both its engines and landing gear, depriving him of two of the plane's three key means of slowing down: the landing gear brake and the engines' reverse thrusts, aviation experts said. They said the plane also did not appear to have activated its wing flaps, another means of cutting down speed. The plane went so fast that it overshot the runway and rammed straight into the concrete structure for localizer antenna.

"Engine trouble doesn't necessarily mean landing gear trouble; the two are not necessarily related," said Paek Seung-joo, a professor of public safety. "But in this case, both appear to have happened." And analysts said if both engines were lost, the pilot could still manually lower the landing gear. But given the hurried way the pilot tried to land, he might not have had enough time, they said. "Questions like these won't be answered until they examine the jet's flight data recorder," J Y Jung, an aviation expert said.

MAGA hardliners now target OPT for int'l students as optics of H-1B changes

Claim That Work Permit Is 'Killing' Jobs For American College Graduates

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: MAGA activists are taking aim at the OPT (Optional Practical Training) programme that helps foreign students and graduates, many from India, stay back in the United States to gain work experience, even as the optics surrounding the H-1B guest worker visa is changing rapidly.

After a fierce campaign against the H-1B visa programme that has forced pledges from the incoming Trump White House to review and reform it on grounds it is being misused to replace American workers, hardliners are now putting the OPT, seen as a precursor to H-1B, under the lens. Typically, foreign students who come to the US on an F-1 visa are eligible to participate in OPT after their first academic year and remain in the US — for up to three years in case of STEM graduates to gain work experience.

MAGA's 'America First' hardliners are arguing that OPT was originally intended as a short-term work permit for skill development, but has now "evolved into a tool to secure US jobs and a pathway for securing long-term work visas like the H-1B". "Employers saw



WHAT AWAITS... Already, a fierce campaign against the H-1B visa has forced pledges from the incoming Trump White House to review and reform it on grounds it is being misused to replace American workers

OPT workers as desperate, willing to do anything for H-1B sponsorship before their permit expired," the nativist tech workers coalition said Sunday, calling it "the largest guest worker programme killing jobs for new American college grads".

Many foreign students, particularly those from India, come to study in the US on the premise that they will get on OPT to gain work experience. In many cases, they transition on to H-1B visas during or near conclusion of the OPT period, giving them up to nine years in the US. In that time, some manage to get green cards and eventually become US citizens.

According to a Congressional Research Service report, in calendar year 2023, there were 1.5 million F-1 and M-1 (vocational training) students and recent graduates in the US. About 23% of those (344,686) were authorised to work via OPT.

Killing OPT would effectively mean foreign students would have to exit the US after graduation without the benefit of gaining work experience, a prescription that would likely drastically reduce foreign students coming to the US.

The OPT programme dates back to 1947, when regulations provided that foreign students may work "in cases where employment for practical training is required or recommended by the school" and approved by immigration officials. To participate in OPT, a student must get approval from the school/college/university and then file an application for employment authorisation with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). There is no limit on the number of F-1 or M-1 nonimmigrants who may participate in OPT. A vast majority (98%-99%) of OPT participants are in F-1 status.

Some US policymakers have long argued for restricting

or eliminating the OPT programme, maintaining that it operates as a closet foreign worker programme without congressional approval, displaces US students and recent graduates, and is susceptible to national security risks. Others have argued that OPT should be continued or expanded because it allows educated foreign nationals to contribute to the economy and makes the US a more attractive destination for foreign students, who also bolster the finances of US colleges.

In fact, the OPT programme, which originally allowed a one-year work stint, was extended by successive Republican and Democratic govts. In 2008, the Bush administration extended the maximum period of OPT from 12 months to 29 months for F-1 students who had completed a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). In 2016, the Obama administration further extended it to 36 months for those with STEM degrees.

Both administrations cited the economic, cultural, and academic contributions of foreign students, as well as national security concerns related to US economic and technological competitiveness, as justification for the extensions. But MAGA nativists, riding on their campaign against H-1B, are now saying "nye" in an effort to nix the OPT, biding the US academia which values foreign students both as a financial and academic resource.

No legal barrier to prevent Awami League from polls: EC

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: There is "no current legal barrier" preventing the Awami League from contesting polls, Bangladesh chief election commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin has said, amid lawsuits in its courts seeking orders to bar the Sheikh Hasina-led party from participating in the national elections, the date of which is yet to be finalised. He also announced that preparations for the national polls are in progress, days after Bangladesh interim gov't chief Muhammad Yunus said elections — pending since the fall of the Hasina gov't in Aug — are likely to be held between the end of 2025 and the first half of 2026.

Addressing concerns about the participation of Awami League in the elections, Nasir

Uddin, during a 'view-exchange' meeting in Chittagong on Monday, said, "It is primarily a political matter." "Some individuals have filed lawsuits seeking court orders to bar the Awami League from participating. If the court issues such a verdict, we will act accordingly. Otherwise, it remains a political decision," he said. The CEC asserted that "there is no current legal barrier preventing the party from contesting".

In a discussion on finalisation poll date during a 'view exchange' meeting in Cumilla, Nasir Uddin, said, "We are awaiting reports from various reform commissions, including the election commission reform. Once we receive these, we will have a clearer idea about the timeline for the elections (with a specific date)".

Issue 'July Uprising Declaration' by Jan 15: Students' outfit

Dhaka: A day after the Bangladesh interim gov't initiated efforts to draft a 'July Uprising Declaration' based on "national consensus", leaders of a student organisation, which led protests to oust the Sheikh Hasina gov't, on Tuesday demanded it be issued by Jan 15, a move apparently backed by the Jamaat-e-Islami, reports Ahsan Tasnim. The Anti Discrimination Student Movement had initially planned to announce its own declaration, but cancelled it after the gov't announced the 'July Uprising Declaration', which is being seen as a move to give the July-Aug protests the stature of the declaration of liberation.

Yunus pays tribute to Manmohan Singh at mission

Dhaka: Bangladesh chief adviser Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday visited the Indian high commission in Dhaka and paid tributes to former PM Manmohan Singh, who passed away last week, reports Ahsan Tasnim. Yunus, who was received by high commissioner Pranay Kumar Verma, placed a floral wreath at the portrait of the late PM. The chief adviser spoke briefly with Verma, and recalled his friendship with Singh, saying he played a big role in turning India into a global economic giant. The chief adviser also paid tributes to former US president and fellow Nobel laureate Jimmy Carter, who died on Saturday.

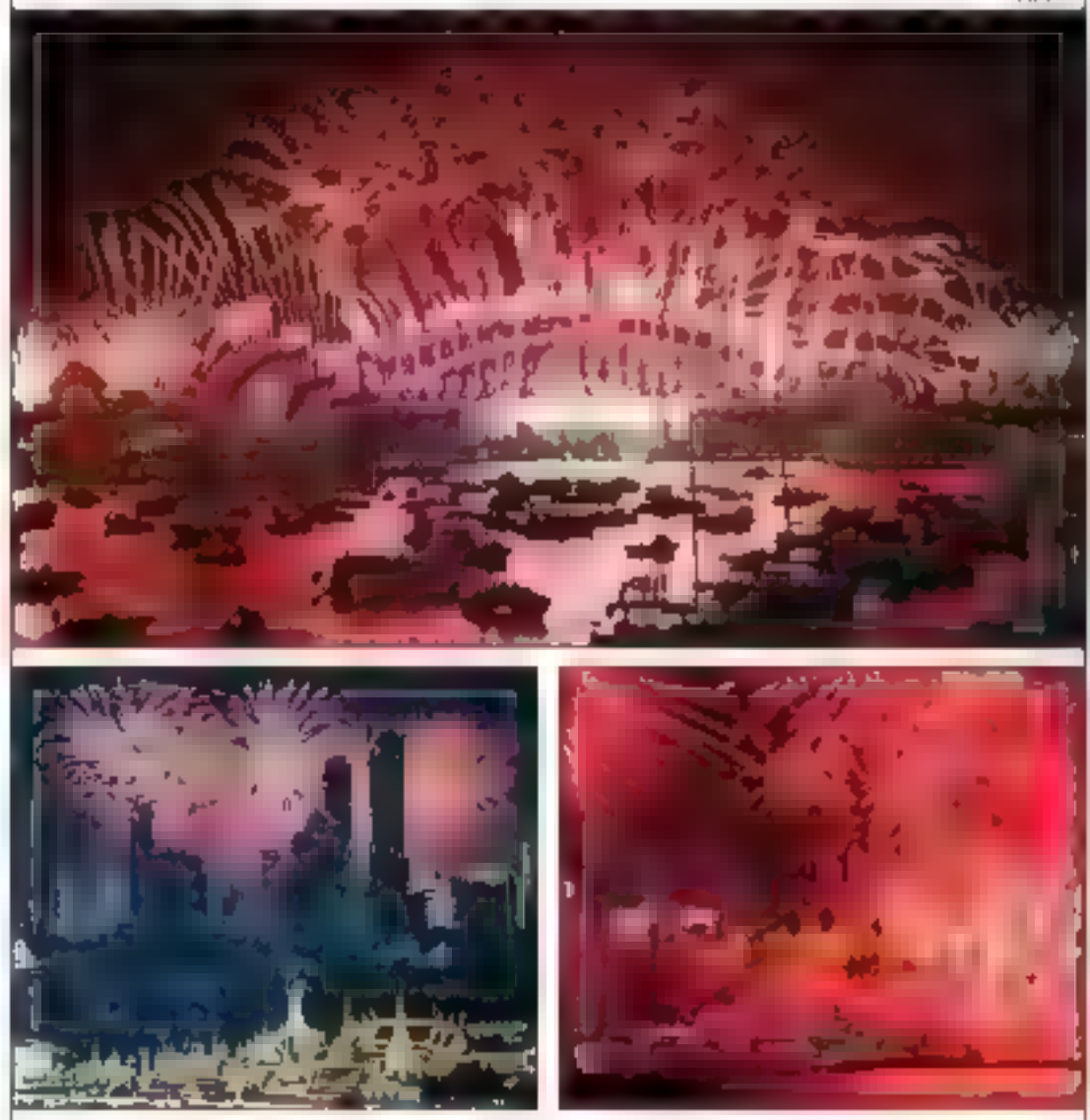
S Korean court issues warrants to detain Yoon, search his office

Seoul: A South Korean court issued warrants on Tuesday to detain impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol and search his office and residence over allegations of rebellion in connection with his short-lived declaration of martial law. It's the first time a warrant has been issued to detain a sitting South Korean president. But experts say there is little chance of detention or searches unless Yoon is formally removed from office. The Constitutional Court is to determine whether to dismiss Yoon as president or reinstate him.

The Seoul Western District Court issued warrants to detain Yoon and to search the presidential office and residence in central Seoul, according to a statement from the committee leading a joint probe with police and military authorities. The agency says it's been investigating whether Yoon's Dec 3 declaration amounted to rebellion.

Under South Korean law, the leader of a rebellion can face the death penalty or life imprisonment if convicted. Yoon's presidential immunity does not extend to allegations of rebellion or treason. Experts said Yoon is likely to ignore the warrants. He's already dodged repeated requests by investigators to appear for questioning. AP

WORLD RINGS IN HAPPY 2025!



SOUNDS AND LIGHT SHOW: The world has begun welcoming 2025 with spectacular light shows. Countries in the South Pacific Ocean are the first to ring in the New Year, with midnight in New Zealand striking 18 hours before the ball drop in Times Square in New York. (above clockwise) Sydney, Hong Kong and Bangkok

On NYE, Puerto Rico in dark as grid collapses

A major power outage plunged much of Puerto Rico into darkness on Tuesday, with the US island territory's electric utility saying restoration could take up to two days. The "island-wide blackout" began at 5:30am (local time), Luma Energy, which manages power transmission on the island, said. Preliminary findings pointed to a fault on an underground cable as the cause, although the probe was still underway. The outage comes just hours ahead of New Year's Eve celebrations. Luma added in a subsequent statement that service had been restored in some areas, including a medical center and hospital in the capital San Juan. Around noon, about 15% of Luma's clients had service. AP

US treasury says Chinese hackers stole documents, Beijing denies

Washington: Chinese hackers remotely accessed several US treasury department workstations and unclassified documents after compromising a third-party software service provider, the agency said on Monday. The department did not provide details on how many workstations had been accessed or what sort of documents the hackers may have obtained, but it said in a letter to lawmakers revealing the breach that "at this time there is no evidence indicating the threat actor has continued access to treasury information." The hack was being investigated as a "major cybersecurity incident," it added.

In Beijing, a foreign ministry spokesperson gave China's standard response to hacking allegations. "We have repeatedly stated our position on such groundless accusations that lack evidence," Mao Ning said at a daily briefing.

The treasury department said it learned of the latest problem on Dec 8, when a third-party software service provider, BeyondTrust, flagged that hackers had stolen a key "used by the vendor to secure a cloud-based service used to remotely provide technical support" to workers. AP

Pentagon frees detainee held at Gitmo since Day 1

The Pentagon on Monday repatriated a Tunisian detainee who was brought to the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, the day it opened, was never charged at the war court and was approved for transfer more than a decade ago. Ridha Bin Saleh al Yazidi, 59, spent years languishing at the wartime prison because deals could not be made to repatriate or resettle him.

He was airlifted from the base in a secret operation that was completed 11 months after the defence department notified Congress that it had reached an agreement to return him to Tunisian custody, the Pentagon said. It offered no details on the security arrangements surrounding his return.

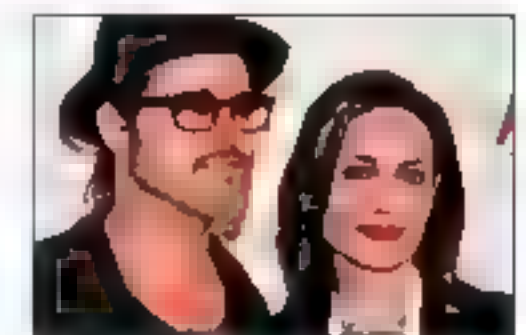
Yazidi's transfer was the fourth in two weeks in a late Biden administration push to reduce the detainee population at the prison, which held 40 prisoners when President Biden took office. His departure left 26 detainees. 14 of

DAILY PLANET



People wearing 1900 style costumes take part in the traditional 'bain de nuit' swim of the year off the beach at Cabourg, France, on Tuesday

Jolie and Pitt reach divorce settlement after 8 yrs of dispute



Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, who got married in 2014, have reached a divorce settlement, ending one of the longest and most contentious divorces in Hollywood history. "More than eight years ago, Angelina filed for divorce from Mr. Pitt," Jolie's attorney said. "Angelina is exhausted, but she is relieved this one part is over." Jolie and Pitt signed off on a default declaration filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday. It says they give up the right to any future spousal financial support, but gives no other details. Jolie, 49, and Pitt, 61, were among Hollywood's most prominent pairings for 12 years, two of them as a married couple. The Oscar winners have six children together. Jolie filed for divorce in 2016, after a private jet flight from Europe during which she said Pitt physically abused her and their children. The FBI and

child services officials probed Pitt's actions on the flight but did not bring charges. A judge in 2019 declared Jolie and Pitt divorced, but the splitting of assets and child custody needed to be separately settled. Soon after, a private judge that the two had hired to handle the case reached a decision that included equal custody of their children, but Jolie filed to have him removed from the case over conflict of interest. The couple had to start the process over. The use of the private judge has kept the details of the divorce largely under wraps. Some disputes, however, have been revealed through a separate lawsuit filed by Pitt over Jolie's sale of her half of a French winery they owned. The battle over winery would go on. AP

AROUND THE WORLD

'The Tale of Genji', written in early 11th century by Japanese nobiwoman Murasaki Shikibu, is one of history's first novels, the first by a woman to have won recognition across world & in Japan today has a stature like that of Shakespeare in England

The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily

How Musk has planted himself almost literally at Trump's doorstep

Maggie Haberman, Jonathan Swan and Ryan Mac

Elon Musk plays many roles with President-elect Donald Trump. He is Trump's most important donor, most influential social media promoter and a key adviser. For most of the time since Election Day, he has also been Trump's tenant.

Musk has been using one of the cottages available for rent on Trump's property at Mar-a-Lago, the former Marjorie Merriweather Post home in Florida that Trump converted into a members-only club and hotel in 1990s, according to two sources.

The cottage where he has been staying, named Banyan, is several hundred feet away from the main house, according to a person who knows the property.

Staying right on the grounds has helped give Musk with easy access to Trump. He can drop in on Trump's dinners, such as one he had recently with Musk's rival, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. Musk, who spent more than a quarter of a billion dollars in the final months of this year's election cycle to help elect Trump, has attended personnel meetings in the Mar-a-Lago Teahouse, sat in on calls with foreign leaders and spent



DON'T TENANT: For much of the period since Election Day, Musk has been staying at a \$2,000-a-night cottage at Mar-a-Lago, giving him easy access to the president-elect

President-elect JD Vance has stayed in one of the cottages at Mar-a-Lago when he has been in Palm Beach and has been there frequently during the transition, a person with knowledge of his stays said. And others are said to have used cottages since Election Day. But few have been as omnipresent as Musk.

Trump has bragged to people that Musk — the world's richest man — is "renting" one of the residential spaces at Mar-a-Lago. It is unclear how much Musk will end up paying for the cottage, which historically has rented for at least \$2,000 a night. Officials at the club do

not typically bill guests until the end of stay, leaving open the possibility that Trump will choose not to charge Musk, or to reduce the size of his bill. But Trump is not known to shy away from income opportunities.

Musk moved into the cottage around Election Day and watched the returns at Mar-a-Lago with Trump. He left the property around Christmas and has been expected to return in the coming days. On Friday, in a post on Truth Social that seemed intended as a private communication to Musk, Trump wrote: "Where are you? When are you coming

to the 'Center of the Universe,' Mar-a-Lago. Bill Gates asked to come, tonight. We miss you and New Year's Eve is going to be AMAZING!" DJT

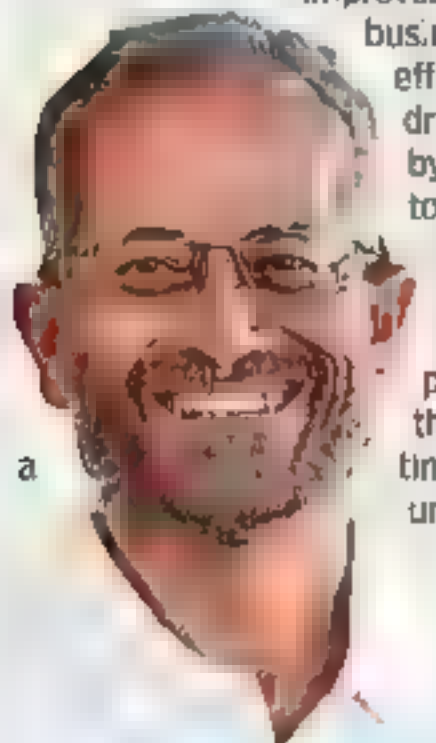
Some of Trump's advisers have privately griped about how much influence Musk has had on the transition and how unseparable he is from the president-elect. Musk is unlikely to have such unfettered physical access to Trump after the president-elect is sworn in on Jan. 20 in Washington. Coming and going in the West Wing is more onerous than at Trump's private clubs, as is access to the White House residence. WWT

With 2025 upon us we asked senior tech execs what they thought were some important tech trends to watch out for. Most of them, predictably, spoke of the growing dominance of AI in every aspect of our lives. From custom AI agents and AI PCs to more linguistically diverse platforms, AI is set to dominate the tech scene for another year, at least.

AI WILL DOMINATE

AI on the edge is coming

One of the most exciting areas of progress in the field of artificial intelligence is edge AI, where devices and IoT gadgets can handle AI tasks right where they are—locally. With hardware like NPUs becoming a standard feature in devices, real-time applications such as language translation and advanced vision processing are becoming more efficient and accessible. This evolution not only improves performance but also enables businesses of all sizes to leverage AI effectively. Companies like us are driving advancements in edge AI by equipping developers with tools and platforms to address localised and complex challenges. In India, the pace of digital transformation is picking up quickly, highlighting the importance of adopting AI in a timely and effective way. With its unique demographics and dynamic markets, India has the potential to become a global leader in AI innovation.



SiMa

Krishna Rangasayee
CEO AND
FOUNDER,
SiMa AI



The Year of Synthetic Data and Quantum Innovation

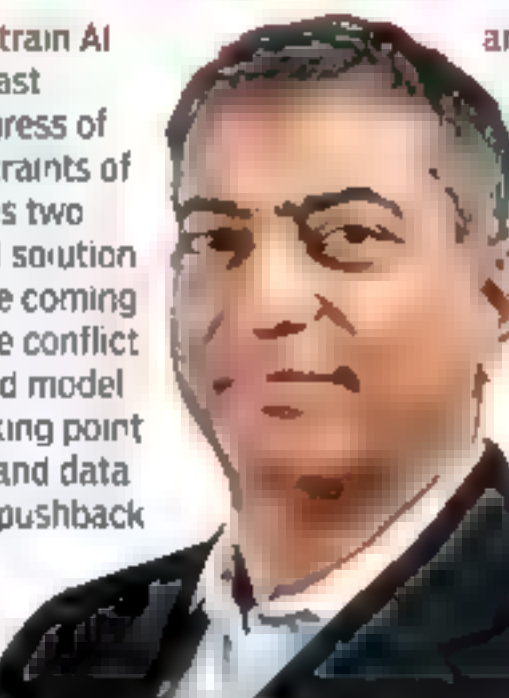
As organisations worldwide embrace the transformative power of AI, 2025 will mark a pivotal year defined by five interconnected trends that will reshape industries and amplify innovation. The first is Models as Products: The shift toward deploying pre-trained, specialised models will redefine AI adoption. Beyond generative AI, organisations will rely on deterministic models for fraud detection, optimisation, and more, allowing for scalable and actionable insights. The second trend is the Synthetic data revolution. Synthetic data will become indispensable in addressing privacy concerns and enhancing AI performance. Industries like healthcare and finance will see up to 50% improvements in model accuracy, thanks to synthetic data's ability to simulate rare events and refine predictive capabilities. The third trend relates to AI governance. As AI decision-making permeates critical areas like lending and insurance, organisations will prioritise oversight, platform compliance, and ethical practices. Equally important will be AI cloud cost optimisation. With the growing deployment of AI at scale, managing cloud expenses will take centre stage. Organisations will explore innovative strategies to balance performance with cost-efficiency, ensuring sustainable AI operations. On top of that, Quantum advancements will unlock new frontiers in AI and data analysis. Industries will begin leveraging quantum capabilities to tackle complex problems, setting the stage for breakthroughs in optimisation and computational speed.

Bryan Harris | CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, SAS



Human language will become less critical to Agentic AI proliferation

As developers continue to train AI models on increasingly vast amounts of content, the progress of AI will soon exceed the constraints of human language. This creates two significant challenges that AI solution providers must address in the coming year. Firstly, I foresee that the conflict between content creators and model developers will reach a breaking point in 2025. Large AI developers and data providers are already facing pushback from artists, musicians, and consumers as they use more



and more human-created content to train their models. The demand for AI model training data is enormous, with one estimate suggesting that by 2028, developers will require all available internet text to train their models. As AI's demand for human-generated data grows, the value of this data and the influence of those who control it will rise significantly. Secondly, I believe this issue along with other language-related constraints will push AI models to evolve beyond human language by 2025.

Prince Kohli | CTO, AUTOMATION ANYWHERE

UPI 3.0 and AI for Bharat

UPI 3.0 is poised to revolutionise digital transactions in India by introducing features that enhance user convenience and financial inclusion. Key innovations include conversational payments, enabling users to conduct transactions through voice interactions with AI-powered systems, initially supporting Hindi and English. This advancement aims to make digital payments more intuitive and accessible to a broader user base. Additionally, the integration of credit lines allows users to access pre-sanctioned credit directly through their UPI apps, providing greater financial flexibility. This feature facilitates seamless borrowing and spending without the need for separate credit applications. The rise of Gen AI models tailored for India's diverse linguistic landscape is also set to democratise technology access. Initiatives like Sarvam AI offer low-cost high-quality models across 10 major Indian languages alongside English. Similarly, the Indian government's Bhashini project aims to develop a National Public Digital Platform for languages, facilitating real-time translation and interpretation in various Indian languages. These advancements are expected to bridge linguistic divides, enabling more Indians to leverage AI in their native languages.

Rohan Sachdev | PARTNER AND NATIONAL LEADER, CONSULTING SERVICES, EY INDIA



Small models will dominate

2024 has been a transformative year for AI innovation and this momentum will continue in 2025. India will continue to democratise AI, as we develop cost-effective Small Language Models (SLMs) and multilingual models to cater to the linguistic diversity of the country. SLMs will see increased adoption in 2025 by enterprises across all major sectors, which will benefit from its increased efficiency, low compute and personalisation nature. Emerging technology capabilities like multi-modal input and output, deeper reasoning and processing rich context will go mainstream and pave the way for an Agentic world where AI agents can act on our behalf across our life, work and organisations.

Rajiv Kumar | MD AND PRESIDENT, MICROSOFT INDIA DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Expect to see custom AI solutions

As we look ahead to 2025, AI isn't just an enabler anymore—it's becoming the backbone of how industries innovate, scale, and solve their most complex challenges. We're entering an exciting phase where AI is evolving from being assistive to becoming truly intelligent, with autonomous agents capable of making decisions and orchestrating entire ecosystems. Custom AI in particular is emerging as a transformative force in 2025, allowing organizations to design AI solutions tailored to their specific needs. By leveraging domain-specific data and advanced model customization, businesses can develop AI applications that address unique challenges, from personalized customer experiences to industry-specific innovations. Industry analysis underscores the growing demand for differentiated AI solutions as enterprises seek to differentiate themselves in competitive markets. Custom AI empowers organizations to extract maximum value from their data while ensuring alignment with business goals. It enables organizations to gain a strategic edge by solving niche problems with precision and scalability. This trend is set to democratize AI innovation, making it accessible across industries and geographies.

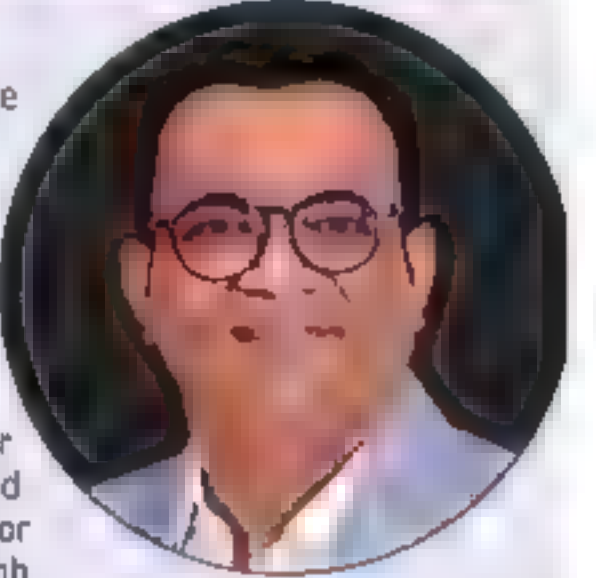
Sindhu Gangadharan | MD, SA
CLAS INDIA CHAIRPERSON, BANGALORE



AI specific servers will be in demand

2024 has seen a stronger demand for AI servers, fuelled by the increased adoption of AI and generative AI tools. As these servers consume significantly more power and generate more heat than standard servers, we can expect to see increased demand for AI-specific infrastructure in the coming year. These servers are designed to handle the unique demands of AI workloads, with optimized storage and memory to enable high-speed server-to-server communication, scalable storage systems, and efficient power management. The challenge for businesses will be on how they manage the high implementation and maintenance costs of this infrastructure. Employing a hybrid cloud strategy, combining on-premises infrastructure with cloud-based AI services can help reduce these costs while providing scalability. In 2025, we will also see increased scrutiny on businesses to act in an environmentally sustainable manner, with some markets introducing legislation imposing tighter restrictions on the disclosure of climate risks. For data centres, the challenge will be balancing the need for innovation and scalability with its carbon footprint.

Amit Luthra | MANAGING DIRECTOR, ISO, LENOVO INDIA



Software and Hardware as a Service

In 2025, technology is changing at a pace never seen before, and SaaS (Software as a Service) is poised to revolutionise the way enterprises adopt and use technology. Emerging Generative AI platforms showcase the groundbreaking potential of this approach, enabling businesses to create, deploy, and scale solutions in a matter of minutes. What used to require years to innovate now becomes a weekly occurrence, so the pace of new, creative, disruptive technologies is unprecedented. Autonomous solutions for software, powered by AI, IoT, blockchain, and mixed reality, shall be the future—showing dynamic, customised service, which goes beyond the very concept of SaaS itself. This trend brings the biggest challenge to the old players in the software space because it makes possible deployment of live, fully integrated solutions almost overnight. SaaS is the next wave of innovation that can revolutionise and unlock the possibilities of any industry across the globe.

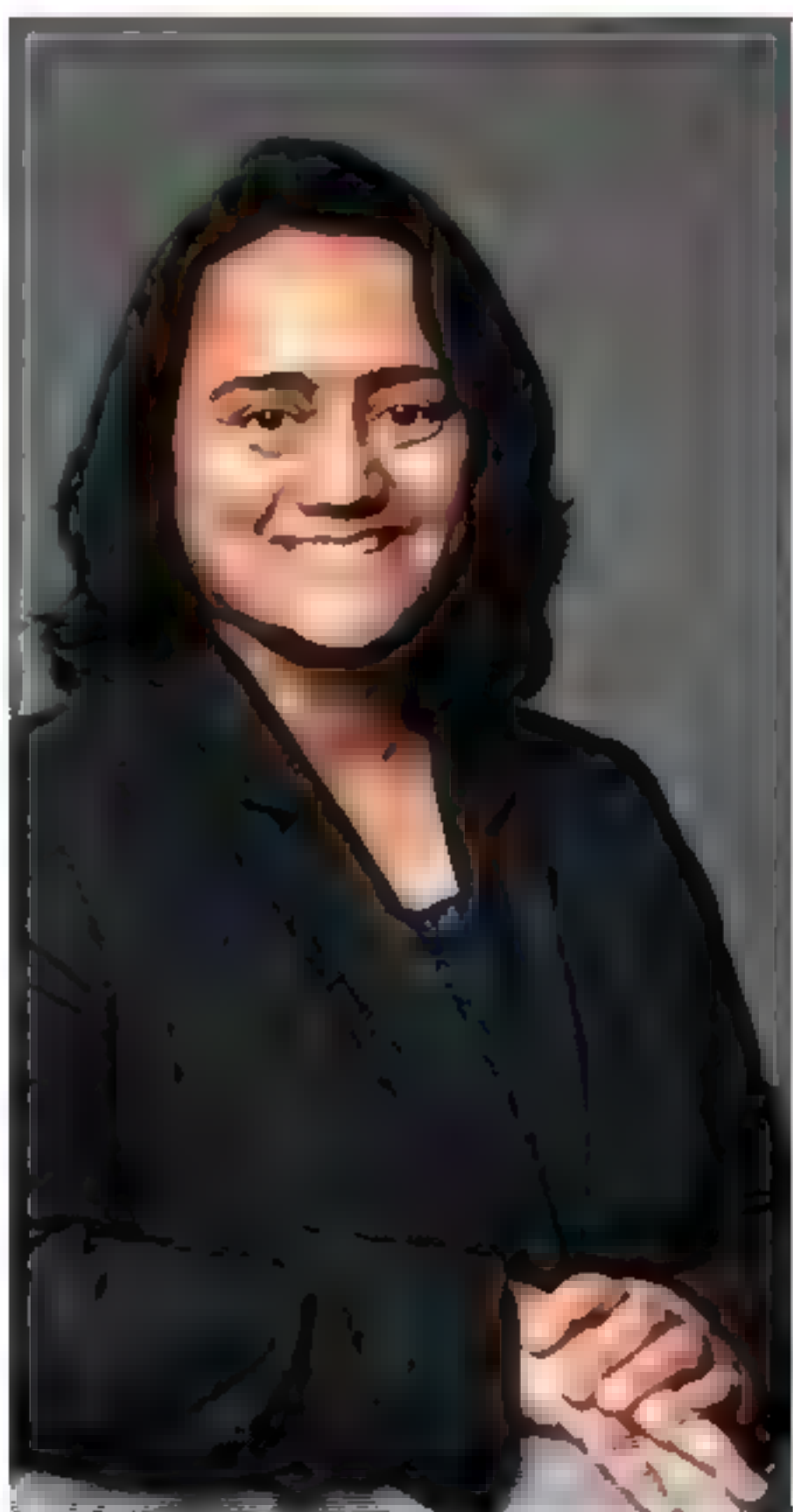
Piyush Sonani | FOUNDER, CMO & CEO, ESGS SOFTWARE SOLUTION



AI PCs will continue to evolve

I believe we are truly at the intersection of multiple breakthroughs. In 2025, two key tech trends will stand out: the evolution of AI PCs and the rapid expansion of High-performance computing (HPC) in the cloud and at the edge. AI PCs represent a transformative shift from incremental upgrades to devices with predictive capabilities, adaptive interfaces, and on-device processing. These innovations deliver faster response times, improved data security, and the ability to handle complex tasks offline, reshaping everyday workflows. For instance, imagine a laptop that adjusts its performance based on your most used apps, streamlines tasks, extends battery life, and even provides real-time translations—all of this without connecting to the cloud. Meanwhile, AI workloads and machine learning will grow dramatically. The expansion of HPC with specialized accelerators will enable enterprises to manage increasing complexity, powering AI, simulations, and analytics at scale. Together, these trends are all part of a broader shift that's making cutting-edge tech more accessible and seamlessly integrating AI into devices, redefining how we work, connect, and innovate.

Vinay Sanka
SVP AND VICE
PRESIDENT,
INDIA SALES,
AMD



Extended reality will finally be here

The usage of extended reality (XR) will increase. In this evolving landscape, multimodal AI will seamlessly integrate into real-world human interactions and navigation. Technology will become more intuitive and responsive to human needs including security and privacy, offering enterprises new opportunities to elevate customer experiences and empower employees. For example, spatial computing will augment customer service, buyer experiences, traveller experiences, patient-provider interactions, and remote work. XR and AI powered solutions for inspection and preventive maintenance will impact safety and environmental protection in addition to operational efficiency. We will also witness an increase in autonomous machines with over-the-air (OTA) updates. Autonomous industrial robots will proliferate, and Software Defined Medical Devices will evolve towards autonomous preventive maintenance and self-healing with minimal human intervention and down time.

Sandhya Arun | CTO, WIPRO

Datacentres will mushroom everywhere

As we look ahead to 2025, we at Intel believe that expanding data centre capacity is not just critical; it is non-negotiable to meet the demands of digital future. India contributes to approximately 20 percent of the world's data, yet most of it is stored and processed in servers overseas. By moving the storage and processing of this vast amounts of data within the nation's borders, we would not only be contributing to security, compliance, and good governance, but this would also significantly reduce the latency of training localised AI models using this data. This would also yield an overall cost-effective model, as transferring large volumes of data to overseas cloud servers will incur heavy, recurring costs due to subscriptions. With the growth in localised data centres, we can expect to come down further through economies of scale as more data centres come online. The tech ecosystem needs to focus on reimagining the way data centres are built while focusing on cost, latency, and security aspects in addition to addressing some of the environmental challenges like water and power. Investing in local data centres—akin to building highways or other infrastructure, is critical to India's future as the nation aims to be an AI powerhouse.

Santhosh Viswanathan | VP AND MD, INTEL, INDIA REGION



SaaS will transform to service-as-a-software

In 2025, the biggest innovations will be around Agentic AI. It will force companies that sell software-as-a-service to offer service-as-a-software. Take a company like Salesforce. Today, their revenue comes from per seat sales. But with AI and automation, if the number of people their customers have reduces, so will their revenue. So now, they are moving towards selling AI agents. They'll tell their customers, instead of your salesperson doing it, my AI agent will do it. And the pricing could be outcome based, say, the number of tickets the AI agents close.

Pari Natarajan | CEO, ZINNOV



A thought for today

The world changes, and all that once
was strong now proves unsure

THE EDITOR

Keep Calm, It'll Pass

2025 is the quarter mark of this century. Big things are in ferment, just like a century back. And they will all settle down, again, just like before

A year turns, and brings us a full quarter into the 21st century. We are pitched into chaos and unpredictability democracies and great powers seem to be foundering, wars have erupted around the world. Whether it's a migrant in the city or a white-collar worker worrying about their job, a student facing bleak prospects, a person struggling with generational change, or someone worried about abstractions like democracy and justice, there's a sense that the sky is always falling on our heads. But zoom out, and 2025 doesn't seem all that different from 1925

A century ago, similar tectonic shifts scrambled people's lives. There was great progress, wealth and inequality. Technology had dizzying effects. If it's the digital frontier today, with AI and biotech innovations, it was the cascading effect of steamships, railways, electrification and telecommunications that shook up social patterns then. The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1920 mirrored the Covid pandemic of 2020. If Indians then were depleted by empire, the West was



witnessing the roaring 20s of excess and deprivation. Then and now, the gains from technological progress and globalisation were unevenly spread. Massive fortunes were made from colonial plunder, monopolies were based on resource extraction, industrial innovation and infrastructure. Despite the First World War, the world retreated from trade and cooperation, to seize

short-term advantage. Workers feared being replaced by machines, as the stock market soared. Social safety nets, fair regulation and multilateral global institutions were years away.

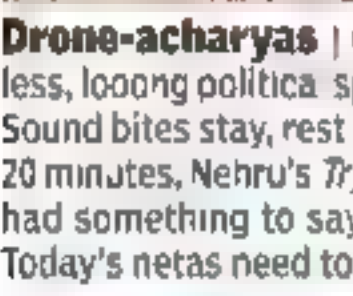
Meanwhile in India, the freedom movement was in ferment, new mobilisations and coalitions were building, from the Khilafat cause to the Non-Cooperation Movement. Radical politics was building everywhere in the world, from the right and left, just as today. There was a yearning for strongmen, and for solidarity. History doesn't repeat itself, but it certainly seems to rhyme.

This is not to say that events don't matter, or that we're doomed to repeat our traumas. It is not a call to disengagement. But in times of historic tumult, it helps to know that we've seen and survived all this before. Sometimes, small things appear big when you're too close to them. It's also a reminder that a revolution is only a turn of the wheel. Reconstruction follows disaster, war and peace are both inevitable. The Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska wrote about mundane life-sustaining work even in the middle of war, someone pushing the rubble off the road so the corpse-filled wagons can pass, and so on. A generation that lived in conflict gives way to another that remembers little, and another that remembers nothing. "In the grass that has overgrown/ causes and effects,/ someone must be stretched out/ blade of grass in his mouth/ gazing at the clouds." And so it is, in good times or bad.

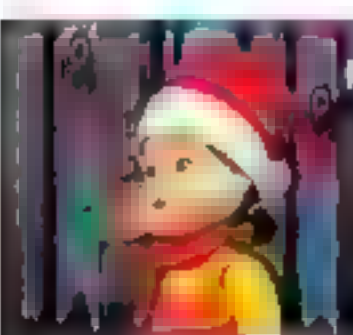
10 Things We Really Want Gone This Year



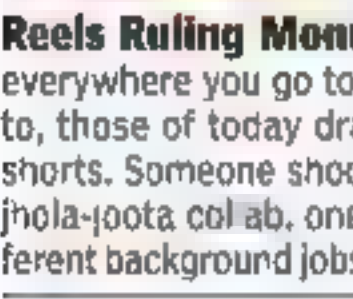
Gassy Judgments | Leave alone Latin, sometimes even their English is Greek to us. SC despairs over 'impenetrable' court verdicts - it recently said an order may be returned to HC to be rewritten, because it couldn't make out a word, so how could appeals proceed? Junk centuries-old style of bad English and incomprehensible gobbledegook. Judges should take law-language lessons, p us get tech help.



Drone-acharyas | Constant electioneering means countless, loopy political speeches. At year's end, you recall none. Sound bites stay, rest is lost. MLK's *I Have a Dream* ran under 20 minutes. Nehru's *Tryst with Destiny* under 10 minutes. They had something to say, so did it crisp y, it's still being heard. Today's netas need to speak short to be listened long.



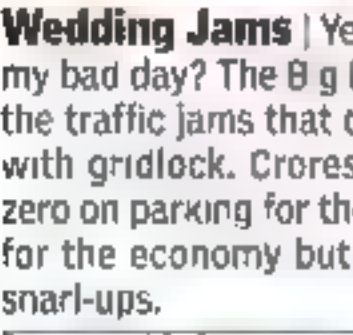
Weekly OTT Torture | Much-awaited second season of *Squad Games* dropped all seven ep sodes at the same time. This is much more humane than *Only Murders in the Building* freeing only one episode a week. Showmakers should end the g mucky wait times. Look, real life gives us anxiety enough. Additional stress of waiting to find out who oppressed whom in reel worlds is plain sadistic.



Reels Ruling Monuments | Sanchi stupa to Khajuraho, everywhere you go to see what Indians of the past were up to, those of today drag you wily-nilly into their reels and shorts. Someone shooting a bridal film, someone else their jhola-poota col ab, one visit and you may end up in 5-50 different background jobs. This is a grave human rights violation.



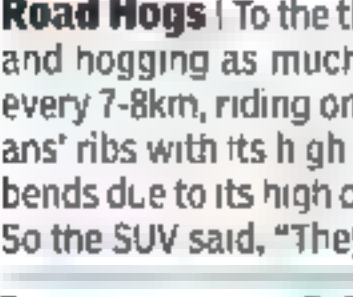
Holiday Photo-dumps | Other people's vacation pictures are obnoxious. To those of us stuck at home, your travel photo-dump looks like a brag and a drag. You're not bringing the wonders of the world to your social media friends. You're just replicating a consumer experience like everybody else. So stop with the utterly unoriginal photo-series. They're no fun: except, of course, when we do it.



Wedding Jams | Yes, it's your big day. But why should it be my bad day? The B g Fat Indian Wedding's biggest turn-off is the traffic jams that come with it. Baraat is do naagin dance with gridlock. Crores are spent on a themed wedding but zero on parking for the 2,000-plus guest list. BFIWs are lovely for the economy but would be lovelier without miles-long snarl-ups.



Blinding Lights | It used to be mandatory to paint the top third of your head ght black, and 'Use D pper At Night'. Now, LED guns pass for headlights. They are terrible in daytime and torture at night. Complaints have been raised in UK, US, Canada, and given our road conditions a blinded driver may kill or get killed. Let's go back to hairogens, please.



Road Hogs | To the thinking man, or woman, a car weighing and hogging as much space as two, burning a litre of fuel every 7-8km, riding on tyres fit for trucks, breaking pedestrians' ribs with its h gh grille, and tending to flip over at sharp bends due to its high centre of gravity would not make sense. So the SUV said, "They don't think, therefore I am."



Fake Posh | Don't trust builders who stick French or Mediterranean-sounding names on apartments. Collonges-la-Rouge in Luth ana, Bilancourt in Bulandshahr shou d set alarm bells ringing. If it starts with 'la', is it a ticket to la-la-land? Lavasa was a coined word, utterly meaningless, and look where it led. If your apartment in 'Les Bregeres' isn't ready in 15 years, how will you tell cops?



Phone-y Upgrades | Unless you're a collector, you won't touch the first iPhone from 17 years ago. Five-year-old phone? Nah, 4 g-gs of RAM is no good. What do we need more and more for? B ame heavier OSes and apps. Everything's jazzier. A donkey can't bear an elephant's freight. Your old phone dies under modernity's weight. Spare us the upgrades.

REIMAGINE THERE'S NO...

For the first day of the new year, we decided to be wildly optimistic. What might our world look like if we smartly subverted conventions? Our suggestions

Make Democracy Great Again

Democracy's lost some of its meaning, pundits say. True that, but it isn't about fixing tiresome labels on nations. It's about asking just why isn't democracy any longer living up to the demo version. Imagine a world where organised people matter more than organised money. Where the majority's heard, sure, but the minority's not out-shouted or scapegoated.



Where We The People are participants, not Mute Masses awed by authority. Public health, education, infra are the basis of a common flourishing, because govts aren't political creatures but service providers. Remind them.

World That's Truly Ordered

Trump wants Panama Canal and Greenland, and tit-for-tat tariffs. His 'Make America Great Again' campaign is unabashedly mercantilist, but 'Made in America' will come apart because all its bits and parts originate from all over the world. A transactional approach to international relations is self-defeating. We need more of the old collaborative spirit, minus meddling arm-twisting hegemony. That's what the UNs, WHO were to do, right? Speak for the world. Multilateralism sadly has agendas much decided by hegemony. A world order with double standards is no order at all. If they're prissy about wars and atrocities, it's for the rest of the world to make international organisations matter again.



Don't Let Sams Run Away With It

Make AI work for you, not get used by it. Only way to beat fear of AI is to face it. Can it be deployed to manipulate decisions, behaviour? Sure it can. Can it help detect cancers or Alzheimer's earlier than traditional methods? That's the idea. Can it help in fraud detection, drug discovery, climate modelling?



Yes, yes & many more yesses. Account ability has to be the big push, and not letting profit-driven superstars like OpenAI be sole arbiters of tech's development. Only regulation can balance innovation and social risks. That calls for global consensus (elusive) on guardrails AI needs.

It's My Life, Big Govt & Big Tech...

It's hard to fall asleep under a stranger's gaze or work with someone watching over your shoulder. That's why privacy is a right we all deserve, but with smartphones and digital payments, govt and Big Tech know us inside out. That's got to change. For starters, smartphones - biggest information siphon of all - and their operating systems shouldn't have lopsided user agreements. Nor should all and sundry apps be able to access non-essential phone functions. Govts, set an example by not being cavalier about citizen data.



...And It's My Information Too

There's a reason insider trading is banned - insiders always know more than outsiders. But tech has taken info-asymmetry to a different level. This is a problem. Your bank, employer and govt know more about you than you do about them. Increasing transparency offers a way out. We must know how and where our data's used



and what institutions are up to. Fat chance? Well, we're the new oil a walking datamine. How to protect ourselves? Penalty for underhand business models - for example, insurers accessing your fitness band data - is the easy part. Tougher to get govt to be transparent on how it uses our data.

New News: Facts, Fun & Smart Figures

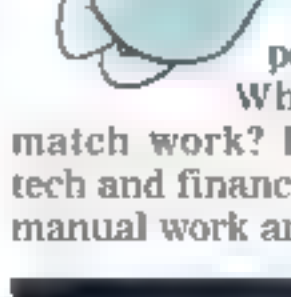
News isn't entertainment, but what engages the reader. What's happening in Ukraine, Gaza or among Maharashtra's union farmers is hard facts. Problems arise when facts are coloured and shared. Also, news must be fun again. And it needs more perspective on bad news. More people get killed by Alzheimer's than by murderers. So, why make every gory murder a Page 1 splash? News isn't



a no-context mind numbing stream of content. Break through science is fun news! Meaningful climate action is great news. News is what is meaningful, what has impact. Reclaim news.

Teaching What Kids & Us Need

School and college are meant to stretch our minds, prepare us for the work of our society. They're meant to ensure talent can break free of circumstance. Today, learning attainments are dismal. College is stratified, with a few oases of excellence in a desert of dead ends. Intense competition



makes most young people feel like failures. What if skills could match work? Everybody aims for tech and finance jobs, care work and manual work are undervalued. What if, starting 2025, we could simply think of what society needs, and work backwards to fix schooling?

Forget History, Focus On Now

History has only produced ill-will and bloodshed, as this subcontinent knows. Having authoritative accounts of what happened doesn't stop political entrepreneurs from mangling the past for present gains. Why burden schoolkids with information about long-ago tyrannies, kings and wars? Being aware of millennia of human suffering does not avert any crisis. Teach them about everyday things they encounter in life - the history of black boards, for example. Even loony right and loony left can't start street fights over blackboards. Tell kids, live in the now, make tomorrow better.

Your Faith Matters, Not Religion

Great evil and great good have been done in the name of religion. Here we still are, attacking others and presuming to protect god. In 2025, may better sense prevail over supposedly holy wars. When organised religion insists on absolute truth or obedience, when it justifies the means with the ends, and declares war on other faiths, it shatters lives. When it evokes awareness of the inter-relatedness of all beings, the oneness of existence, it is a source of good. As spiritual people across faiths know, when ego goes out, god comes in.

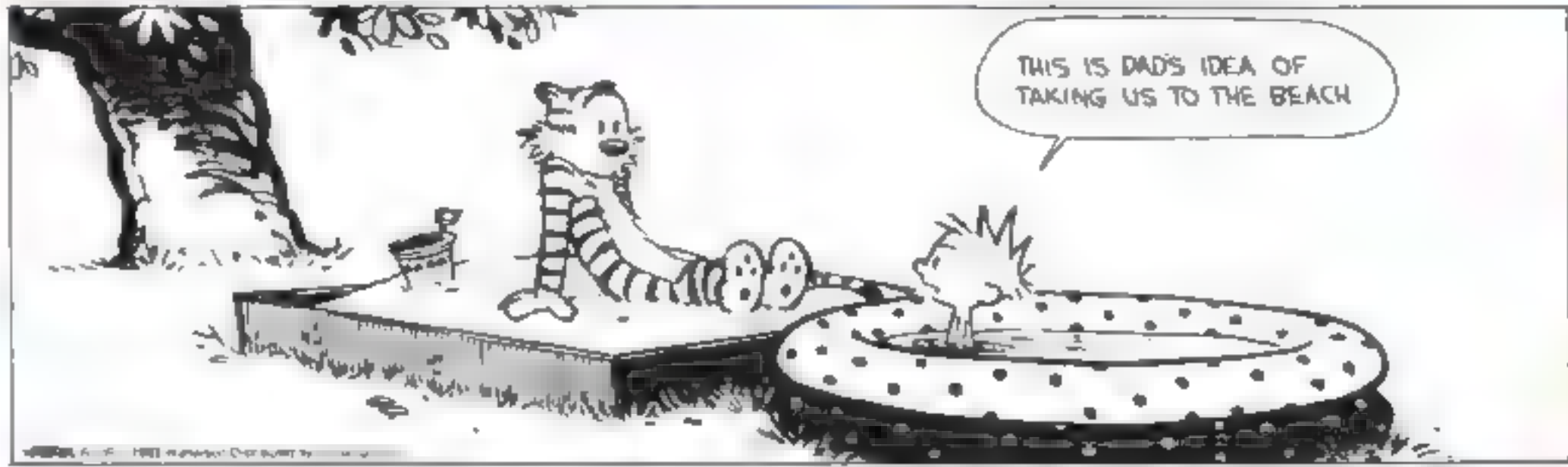


Govts Out Of Bedrooms Please

Young Indians are coming of age in a vastly different world than their parents, grand parents, great grandparents. So stop herding their relationships into yesteryear moulds, from *saat phere* to *qubool hai, qubool hai*, *qubool hai* Sarkar and goondas, stop peering into their bedrooms. Staying single is great. Dating is great. Live-in couples don't need notari sation. Whether they be hetero or gay, their happiness is not hurting anyone so why should anyone be hurting them? Yup, happiness can end short of forever. Divorce is great too. As is a hot dating scene for the divorced.



Calvin & Hobbes



Let 2025 Be When You Connect More To Live Better

Radhanath Swami

Every year, on the night of Dec 31st, we welcome the new year with excitement. We also bid farewell to the year gone by. Each year teaches us lessons, things that went well, the right choices and mistakes we made, relationships gained and lost, successes and failures, and much more. Many a time we desire to make resolutions for the new year. Resolutions are made and often forgotten. It is seen that few people stick to their resolutions for up to six months, and very few see them through to the end. Instead of repeating the usual patterns, adopting a new approach to the upcoming year can fill us with optimism. Let us focus on three simple aspects this year: Invest, Grow and Connect. IGC Invest in meaningful relationships, grow in life through small yet consistent steps, and connect with Divinity. These simple ac-

tions can not only make our new year full filling but also impart a novel sense of joy. Relationships bring both joy and stress. Investing in relationships is important. Studies say about 90% of personal stress stems from them. The imbalance between what is given and what is expected often leads to disappointment. Technology helps us stay connected but it has also made our relationships shallow. Endless scrolling often replaces moments that could have been spent with someone we care about. How many relationships are truly developed through excessive usage of social media? Sometimes, we become so engrossed by technology that we fondly converse with people all over the globe without caring for our next-door neighbour. Spending time with loved ones can fill life with deeper meaning. The year

ahead is full of opportunities to invest in personal relationships that can bring inner satisfaction. Rather than merely going through life, efforts could be made to grow through life. Growth happens quietly in small steps. A part of our new year resolution could be to develop willingness to acknowledge our mistakes, to forgive and let go of trivial things that may often consume the mind. Life, much like a device, needs a source of power to function. Without connection to something higher, life can often seem worthless and purposeless. The Bhagwad Gita (6.29) mentions that the one who connects with the Supreme finds peace. Prayer, meditation, or even a simple moment of gratitude can fill our life with inner joy. These practices may be small, but their impact is lasting. They of

fer clarity and fill our lives with a purpose. Connection with Divinity also helps us navigate through life's challenges in a dignified manner. The Gita (2.70) gives a beautiful analogy of a person who is connected with the Supreme Source. Since time immemorial, rivers have been pouring unlimited amounts of water into the ocean. Yet, the ocean doesn't overflow; it remains calm. Similarly, a person who takes the time to connect with God becomes peaceful like the ocean. He is not affected by the multitude of difficulties, adversities, heartbreaks, or betrayals that life brings forth. Let us welcome this new year with positivity. Let us be grateful for all that we have received. Let us strive to invest time in meaningful relationships, grow beyond our cocoons to become majestic birds soaring high in the sky by connecting with God, may we attain eternal peace and happiness. The writer is spiritual guru, ISKCON

Don't Bother Woman To Be Mother

To be a woman doesn't have to mean to be a mother. That's a choice. This is basic biology and fundamental rights. This remains true after marriage too. And of the number of children a woman has. She can be one and done. Yes, the Chinese calling single women 'leftover ladies' is not an uncommon stigma. Also yes, some netas are insisting women should have more babies, in national interest. But women must now be understood beyond biological tyrannies. Especially when men's reproductive freedoms are being reimagined via sperm donation.



Don't Just Buy Stuff 'Cuz You Can

Trash has reached Everest and the ocean floor, but there are other compelling reasons to reimagine consumption too. Compulsive buying is injurious to minds and finances. So, it's time we thought more about the consequences of our desires and purchases. For example, are biofuels good, what do they do to food prices? Embracing imperfection, whether it is black spots on tomatoes and apples (less pesticide used) or fraying watch straps and scuffed shoes, can curb resource use and waste. It also buys peace of mind.



Home Cooked, Not Factory Made

Our food chain is, literally, a toxic system defined by ultra processed foods, and cultivation with harmful agrochemicals. What we eat is making us sick - obesity's flagged as a public-health emergency in UK. We've to snatch back our food from the clutches of agri-business conglomerates who influence both policy and research. Breaking this nexus will preserve crop diversity, soil health, sustainable farming, and animal husbandry. There's no bigger irony than organic farming & multigrain going elite. Take it to masses. Food as culture is a global phenom & home cooked is not only the way to go but also the one thing fully in our control.

Retire Old Notions Of Getting Old

Sleep, Exercise & Nutrition (SEN) help us live better lives longer. But to make that happen, the world needs to redesign Life as we've lived it is summarily 'snapped' at 60, often triggering stress that makes muncement of SEN goals. Policy geeks are still tweaking pension age, viewing the 'old' as a 'cost'. But companies & techies are smarter; hiring/ re-hiring 60-pluses to fill skill gaps, designing for this new cohort. Marketers see them as a spending force. Overhaul the Learn-Work-Retire model. Work in phases. Learn anytime. Retire? Whenever you're ready. Healthcare? That's what a lifelong paying of tax must deliver.



Embrace Boredom, It Can Spark Ideas

So much to do, yet, everything's such a bore. But what is boredom? 'Whatever's boring' goes one definition - to each their own 'boring'. A 'longing without any particular object'. An 'absence of mood'. From boredom, it's said, rose the gods. As a solution to boredom, Pascal suggested, 'find a god'. Boredom's the mind left to itself, to ignite a eureka spark. Disengaged to the point of laziness - the pause, the lolling, Heidegger said, 'philosophy's born in boredom's nothingness'; that boredom makes us 'experience time as time'. Fear not this nothingness. It's the cradle of creativity.

Make Jogo Bonito Again

Footballer X makes a run from the midfield, then a long ball to the left winger, who crosses the ball in, a scramble in front of goal follows, and a tall centre-forward somehow pokes the ball into the net. This sequence of play can be from anywhere. Liverpool to Sapporo. And it spells the death of the beautiful game. So, to begin with, Brazil, the home of beautiful football, must play like Brazil again. Brazilian players are getting Europeanised. Brazilian coaches are scared of art and beauty. Football is losing its soul. Best way? Nurture young Samba wizards at home, pay them more and dissuade them from going to Europe.



Sacredspace



For last year's words belong to last year's language And next year's words await another voice And to make an end is to make a beginning.

TS Eliot



40-YEAR-OLD LEBRON JAMES SAYS HE WANTS TO FINISH HIS CAREER WITH THE LAKERS

GOLF HALL OF FAME LYDIA KO BECOMES A DAME IN NEW YEAR'S HONORS IN NEW ZEALAND



In Indian cricket, sentimental retirements have often masked larger issues of selection & form. Superstars have usually extended playing careers and scripted their own exits. For India's captain, however, retirement talk is gathering steam ahead of the Sydney Test. For Kohli, too, holding on to his spot looks increasingly difficult with each failure. Only one may be left standing after the final Test of this tour

ROHIT, VIRAT & THE END OF THE LINE



VIRAT AND CONTEMPORARIES IN TESTS DURING THE LAST 5 YEARS (JAN 2020)

Joe Root	Eng	63	114	11	5613	262	54.49	19	20
Kane Williamson	NZ	27	49	4	2897	251	64.37	12	6
Steven Smith	Aus	41	72	9	2798	200*	44.41	8	13
Virat Kohli	Ind	38	67	3	2005	186	31.32	3	9

CONTRIBUTION OF ROHIT AND VIRAT IN INDIA'S LAST 5 TEST DEFEATS

Virat Kohli	5	10	0	152	70	15.20	1	47.94	
Rohit Sharma	5	10	0	112	52	11.20	1	51.85	

ROHIT AND VIRAT IN TESTS IN 2024

Rohit Sharma	14	26	1	619	131	24.76	2	2	63.03
Virat Kohli	10	19	2	417	100*	24.52	1	1	61.96

Sources: Rajesh Kumar

TIMES IN AUSTRALIA
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Melbourne: Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli aren't cut from the same cloth, but their careers are definitely fraying at the edges at the same time.

With every predictable dismissal, the end is looming. It's not here yet. Maybe tomorrow. Or perhaps the day after. It must be an infuriating wait for these two declining stalwarts.

Rumours are swirling as the caravan prepares to enter Sydney for the last stop on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy tour. Perhaps captain Rohit, the lesser of the two Test batsmen, will have his head on the chopping block first. If India don't make the World Test Championship final, Sydney, it is being presumed, could be Rohit's final port of call, a last chance to sign off with a hurrah.

Kohli's may be a longer wait. A modern Test great, he still has time if he so chooses. Kohli still looks the part in patches, though the mind seems scrambled. It's getting easier and easier for opposition bowlers to plan his dismissals. Or, perhaps, there will be redemption round the corner, a Steve Smith-like turnaround, and a few more great knocks to add to the lore? The temptation to linger on is irresistible.

Of course, a Rohit retirement now would be extremely convenient for the

Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee. Celebrity worship and brand recognition is so deeply entrenched in Indian cricket's cloak-and-dagger management style that coaches and selectors struggle to make the tough calls.

Even now, with the series on the line, the chatter — no doubt fuelled by whispers from within the machine — is all ways about 'retirement', never about performance. Indian cricket's superstars, apart from one or two exceptions, have never shared a healthy relationship with being dropped, or with the dreaded 'R' word.

For selectors, too, 'retirement' makes it easier. The call appears to be voluntary. Just look at the way Ravichandran Ashwin bid goodbye in Brisbane.

The talk should instead be about holding on to one's spot. Retirement, irrespective of age, is a personal thing and not the issue here. If a player doesn't perform, he cannot keep his place. Great players get a longer rope, but it still runs out at some point. What he subsequently decides to do with his playing career — retire or keep playing — is his own call to make. Whether to pick him or not is the call of the selectors and the coach. If he has a say in such matters.

Unfortunately, that isn't how Indian

cricket, or even its rabid fans, function. There are two ways to look at the Rohit problem which has dogged the team since the pink-ball Test in Adelaide. Going by performance benchmarks alone, his spot in the playing XI in Sydney shouldn't be a guarantee, even if he is the captain or it turns out to be his last Test with the Indian team. Ashwin, after all, didn't play in Brisbane.

Rohit's problem isn't limited to Australian soil. He averages 24.76 from 26 innings in 2024. This includes two hundreds and two half-centuries. In India's last five defeats, he averages 11.20 from 10 innings. His last 11 Test innings have brought him returns of 2 and 52, 0 and 8, 18 and 11 (all vs New Zealand at home), 3, 6, 10, 3, 9 (all in Australia on this tour).

Even as captain, his overseas record is middling. He has led in eight overseas Tests, losing four, winning two and drawing two. In these Tests, with the bat Rohit averages 29.92, which includes that magnificent 127 at the Oval. Before arriving here, India were whitewashed at home by New Zealand, an unthinkable blow India have now lost five Tests under Rohit this season, equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record from 1999-2000.

Numbers, though, aren't everything

when it comes to batsmen of pedigree. Rohit just hasn't looked like his old self out there in the middle. In Adelaide he took a blow for the team, shifting to the middle order from his regular opening slot since KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal had just engineered a Test win in Perth along with Jasprit Bumrah.

The move didn't work and at the MCG he batted better after returning as opener, though the runs still didn't come. In the first innings he was caught in two minds playing his favourite pull shot. In the second he stood firm with a Test to save, and some of that laidback swagger looked like returning when he perished trying to play an attacking shot.

The other way is to treat it as an issue of form. While it's easy to gauge from the numbers — he has 164 runs in 15 innings this season, starting with the Tests against Bangladesh — that Rohit has had a horror run, it's been only four months or so, from Sept 19 (start of the Chennai Test against Bangladesh) till the end of the year. Some famous batters have been known to nurse poor form for far longer. So why talk of retirement and not form even though Rohit is inching towards 38 years of age?

Either way you look at it, Rohit's selection in Sydney shouldn't be an auto-

matic choice. Kohli is in a similar bind but with a significant difference. With Kohli, the numbers make for equally dreary reading — he averages 24.52 this year — but he is at a superior level compared to Rohit as a Test batsman. The debate is different.

Plus, he has a century in Perth on this tour, the one time he got to bat against the older Kookaburra ball. He has shown self-restraint. The first-innings 36 from 86 balls at the MCG was a small but significant knock which earned praise from the likes of Smith.

Kohli's problem has been both technical — a tendency to reach out and drive at deliveries on the fifth or sixth stump line with askew footwork — and mental, motivated by the urgency to score some quick runs, since the runs aren't coming. The two are linked.

Kohli too, has been in a long, gradual decline since the first Covid enforced break. There could still be some gas left in the tank. Kohli may still have a prolific season or two in him. However, on current form, does he deserve to keep his place? Who can replace him at No. 4 in the present squad? These are questions the team management has to answer.

As for Rohit, is this the end of the line? Sydney will provide.

OTHERS CAN BE AS BRAVE AS KONSTAS: WARNER

Melbourne: Lavishing praise on young Sam Konstas, former opener David Warner has urged Australia's senior players to adopt a similar aggressive approach when facing Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has been a dominant force with the ball in the ongoing series.

The 19-year-old Konstas played some stunning scoops and laps off Bumrah en route to a 65-ball 60 on his Test debut during the fourth Test at Melbourne, which the Aussies won by 184 runs on Monday.

"It was very special. People are going to criticise him as well. That's the nature of the beast, that's the way he is going to pay," Warner said.

BUMRAH NAMED CAPTAIN OF CRICKET AUSTRALIA'S TEST TEAM OF YEAR, NO PLACE FOR OZ SKIPPER PAT CUMMINS

Melbourne: Jasprit Bumrah was on Tuesday recognised for his splendid performances in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as Cricket Australia named the Indian pace spearhead as the captain of its Test team of the year, which also features Yashasvi Jaiswal. Meanwhile, Australia captain Pat Cummins failed to make it to the XI despite enjoying a good year with 37 wickets from nine matches at an average of 24.02 with two five-wicket hauls.

The squad: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ben Duckett, Joe Root, Rachin Ravindra, Harry Brook, Kamindu Mendis, Alex Carey, Matt Henry, Jasprit Bumrah (captain), Josh Hazlewood, Keshav Maharaj. AGENCIES



McDonald optimistic about Starc's availability for Sydney Test

Melbourne: Australia head coach Andrew McDonald conceded that Mitchell Marsh has fallen short of expectations with the bat against India but remained optimistic about Mitchell Starc's availability for the pivotal fifth Test in Sydney.

"Any time you get through the game, it's always a good indicator that you've a chance at the next game," McDonald said after the hosts picked up memorable MCG victory. "It doesn't stop him (Starc).

Clearly there was a little bit of discomfort early on in spells, but once he got warm it seemed as though he was pretty free. We'll see how everyone recovers. Bowling last, it was a pretty attritional game, something that we're not used to in the last few years.

"Clearly Starc's carrying something of some description. We'll assess that. "But other than that, it looks as though we got through pretty unscathed, but [with a] short turnaround recovery is important, and we'll assess what the team looks like in Sydney based upon the surface, as we always do."

Should Starc be unavailable for the series decider at his home ground, McDonald expressed confidence in Jhye Richardson or Sean Abbott stepping

up to fill the void. Starc's fitness issues, compounded by his heavy workload alongside skipper Pat Cummins, have also drawn attention to the limited role of Mitchell Marsh as a fifth bowler.

Across four Tests, Australia's fifth bowling option Marsh has bowled only 33 overs, a statistic that underscores his underutilization. Marsh's contributions with the bat have been similarly underwhelming, with just 71 runs in the series so far. However, McDonald defended the all-rounder. "He's in a good space. Would you like better performances? There's no doubt about that. Over four Test matches, he hasn't been able to deliver at the level he would like and we would like."

"He's up and about though. We just won a Test match. No, there's no concern. And I think people have probably been reading too much into that."

INDIAN CRICKET HAS DEPTH TO FILL ROHIT, VIRAT'S VOID: LEHMANN

Melbourne: Indian cricket has produced a generational superstar in Yashasvi Jaiswal and will remain in good health even when Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma decide to call time on their careers, feels former Australia head coach and two-time World Cup winner Darren Lehmann.

"Look whenever they decide to give it away and whatever happens in next few days they have been great players for India over a long period of time," Lehmann, a member of 1999 and 2003 ODI World Cup-winning teams said. "Now actually we see younger players starting to step up for India. There is so much depth, I won't worry too much. Whenever these two guys decide to retire, there are so many talented youngsters that Indian cricket will be in good stead."

GALLERY

Sidhu condemns Head's celebration as insult

New Delhi: Former Indian cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu has strongly criticised Australian cricketer Travis Head for his controversial celebration after dismissing Rishabh Pant during the Boxing Day Test. Head celebrated by pointing one finger into a circularly shaped hand, a gesture that has sparked widespread debate. Sidhu posted on X: "Travis head's obnoxious behaviour during the course of the Melbourne test doesn't auger well for the gentleman's game..... sets the worst possible example when there are kids, women, young & old watching the game..... this caustic conduct d do not insult an individual but a nation of 1.5 billion Indians..... stringent punishment that would serve a deterrent for the future generations needs to be slapped on him so that no one dares follow suit !!!"

Clarke feels SCG Test opportunity for Khawaja to retire: Former Australian captain Michael Clarke said that the final Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy between India and Australia could be a "great opportunity" for veteran opener Usman Khawaja to announce his retirement at his home venue.

Deepthi jumps to fifth spot in ICC ODI rankings: Deepthi Sharma climbed a spot to enter the top 5 in the latest ICC women's ODI ranking for bowlers following her match-winning performances in the recently-concluded series against the West Indies at home. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: NZ vs SL, 2nd T20, 5.45 am Thursday (Sony)
FOOTBALL: EPL, Brentford vs Arsenal, 1 am Thursday (Star)
HOCKEY: HIL, Bengal vs Gonasika, 8.15 pm (DD, Sony)

Caruana wins another race against Arjun

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

There is something about the race between Erigaisi Arjun and Fabiano Caruana.

The Indian had overtaken the former World Championship challenger from the USA in the FIDE rating list in Nov. He was also leading the 2024 FIDE circuit points before the Chennai GM tournament that month. But Caruana overtook him in the Dec rating list and also topped the circuit points chart, thanks to some tournaments in the USA and has sealed the one Candidates spot on offer this year. Seven more spots will be on offer in 2025.

To Arjun's credit, he has added 60-plus Elo points in the last 12 months, compared to Caruana's none. He had also swapped places with the American in the live rating list.

Their story took a similar turn on the first day of the two-day World Blitz Chess Championship in New York on Monday. No. 12 seed Erigaisi Arjun and No. 5 Caruana started with five wins in a row to be the only joint leaders at that stage. However, the next eight rounds saw Arjun log only two points and Caruana 4.5. Arjun thus finished joint sixth but overall 64th on tiebreak.

R Vaishali made amends for India as she qualified in the top spot in the women's section. She was the lone Indian to win the knockout berth across both sections.

The FIDE has changed the format of the blitz event (3mins+2sec) this year with only 13 and 11 Swiss League rounds in the Open and Women's sections, respectively. The top-eight players in each section were scheduled to



R Vaishali advanced to quarterfinal

play knockouts (quarters, semis and final) on Tuesday night. These were to be four-game mini matches.

No. 21 seed Vaishali (Elo 2359) started with four wins and remained undefeated for 9/5/11. She played two players above Elo 2400 for 1.5/2 against them. Clearly, the tougher tests lie ahead.

K Humpy, who had won the World rapid crown a couple of days ago, was unlucky to miss out on the knockout berth as she finished ninth with 8 points, the same as last qualifier Zhu Jiner. Humpy played all 11 decisive games. Her loss to compatriot Divya Deshmukh in the eighth round proved crucial in the end.

Eighteen-year-old Volodar Murzin of Russia, who had won the World Rapid, made it to the knockouts of the blitz. Magnus Carlsen, playing with jeans, also made the cut.

After being 7/7, Caruana probably took it easy and despite losing to Ian Nepomniachtchi in the 11th round, his 2.5 points in the last six games were enough to give him joint top spot with 9.5 points.

FBI issues warning to leagues about organized crime

The FBI is warning sports organizations targeting professional athletes following a string of burglaries at the homes of prominent NFL and NBA players.

The athletes' homes are targeted due to the perception they may contain high-end goods like designer handbags, jewellery, watches and cash, the FBI said in a Liaison Information Report obtained by ABC News.

The NFL and NBA already have issued security alerts to their players after the break-ins, some of which have come when players were away with their teams for road games. The NFL's alert says homes of professional athletes across multiple sports have become "increasingly targeted for burglaries by organized and skilled groups."

Luka Doncic of the Dallas Mavericks is the latest professional athlete whose home has been burglarized. Lara Beth Seager, the star guard's business manager told multiple media outlets Saturday there was a break-in at Doncic's home. Seager said nobody was home at the time of the incident Friday night, and Doncic filed a police report. Star NFL quarterback Patrick Mahomes of Kansas City and Joe Burrow of Cincinnati, along with Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, have been victims. A

Mhatre youngest to score 150-plus in List A

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Mumbai opener Ayush Mhatre etched his name in the history books with a record-breaking performance when he became the youngest player to register a 150+ score in a List A game while starring in his side's 189-run win over Nagaland in a Vijay Hazare Trophy Group C match at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Aged all of just 17 years and 168 days, Mhatre smashed a 117-ball 181 to eclipse the record previously held by another Mumbai batsman, Yashasvi Jaiswal, who accumulated 203 against Jharkhand in the 2019 Vijay Hazare Trophy when he was enjoying his breakout domestic season aged just 17 years and 291 days old.

Feasting on a below-par Nagaland attack, the Virar lad unleashed 16 fours and 11 sixes as he powered Mumbai to a mammoth total of 403 for seven in 50 overs. Mhatre stitched a 156-run opening stand alongside Angkrish Raghuvansi, who scored 56. The youngster was then involved in a 50-run stand with Siddhesh Lad (39), before allrounder and stand-in captain Shardul Thakur (regular captain

Youngest batters to score 150+ in a List A innings

17y 168d: Ayush Mhatre (Mumbai)
17y 291d: Yashasvi Jaiswal (Mumbai)
19y 63d: Robin Uthappa (Karnataka)
19y 136d: Tom Prest (Hampshire)

Shreyas Iyer (who was rested) showed his batting prowess in a fiery 28-ball 73 not out (strike rate 260.71). In reply for Nagaland, the "pro" Jagadeesha Suchuth scored a century (104, 97b, 7x4, 4x6) while Sudezhali Rupero laboured to a half century (53 off 110 balls), as Nagaland finished at 214 for nine in 50 overs, with Thakur taking three for 17 in five overs.

Mhatre had earlier scored 78 off 82 balls against Karnataka.

Rahane to miss the league stage of VHT

Meanwhile, on a "break", senior batter Ajinkya Rahane will miss the league stage of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Rahane hasn't featured in any of the games in the tournament so far and will miss the last two matches too. "Rahane has requested for a break but has assured us that he

Abhishek & Prabhsimran hit centuries

India batter Abhishek Sharma hammered a 96-ball 170 with as many as 22 fours and eight sixes, while opening partner Prabhsimran Singh made a 95-ball 125 as Punjab outshone Saurashtra in a run-fest in Ahmedabad.

At the Gujarat College Ground, nearly 800 runs were scored as Punjab, who made 424/5 batting first, bowled out Saurashtra for 367 to win by 57 runs.

Hyderabad end Karnataka's streak

Skipper Mayank Agarwal's third century in a row was not enough as Hyderabad pipped Karnataka by three wickets to end their four-match winning streak in a Group C contest in Ahmedabad. A

will be available for the knockouts," Mumbai Cricket Association secretary Abhay Hadap told TOI.

Having lost to Punjab and Karnataka, Mumbai are placed third in Group C with 12 points in five matches. With just two matches left now, they only have slim hopes of qualifying for the knockouts.

Manchester United could be in relegation battle: Amorim

Manchester: Ruben Amorim called it “embarrassing” as a Manchester United manager to be discussing the threat of relegation, but after Monday’s miserable 2-0 Premier League loss to Newcastle United he conceded that is the reality his team are facing.

Newcastle’s Alexander Isak and Joelinton headed early goals to hand Amorim’s team their fifth loss in their last six league games. They go into the new year 14th in the table, much closer to the relegation zone than the Championship positions.

“I think (relegation) is a possibility and we have to be clear with our fans. We have to change something but this season will be really hard on everybody. It can make us stronger and we have to fight,” Amorim said.

“It’s also my fault in this moment, because I think the team is not improved, I think it is a little bit lost in this moment. So it’s a little bit embarrassing to be much as United coach and to lose a lot of games. But we have to cope with that, difficult moments in the life of every body. So it’s a hard moment.”

Amorim has had anything but a dream start to his United career, suffering five defeats in his first eight league games – the worst record for a Manchester United manager in 103 years. “Worrying times for Manchester United and Ruben Amorim,” former United defender Gary Neville said on Sky Sports. “He came in as a young manager and knew it was going to be a big job, but it is far bigger than he could have ever imagined.”

Neville called United “the

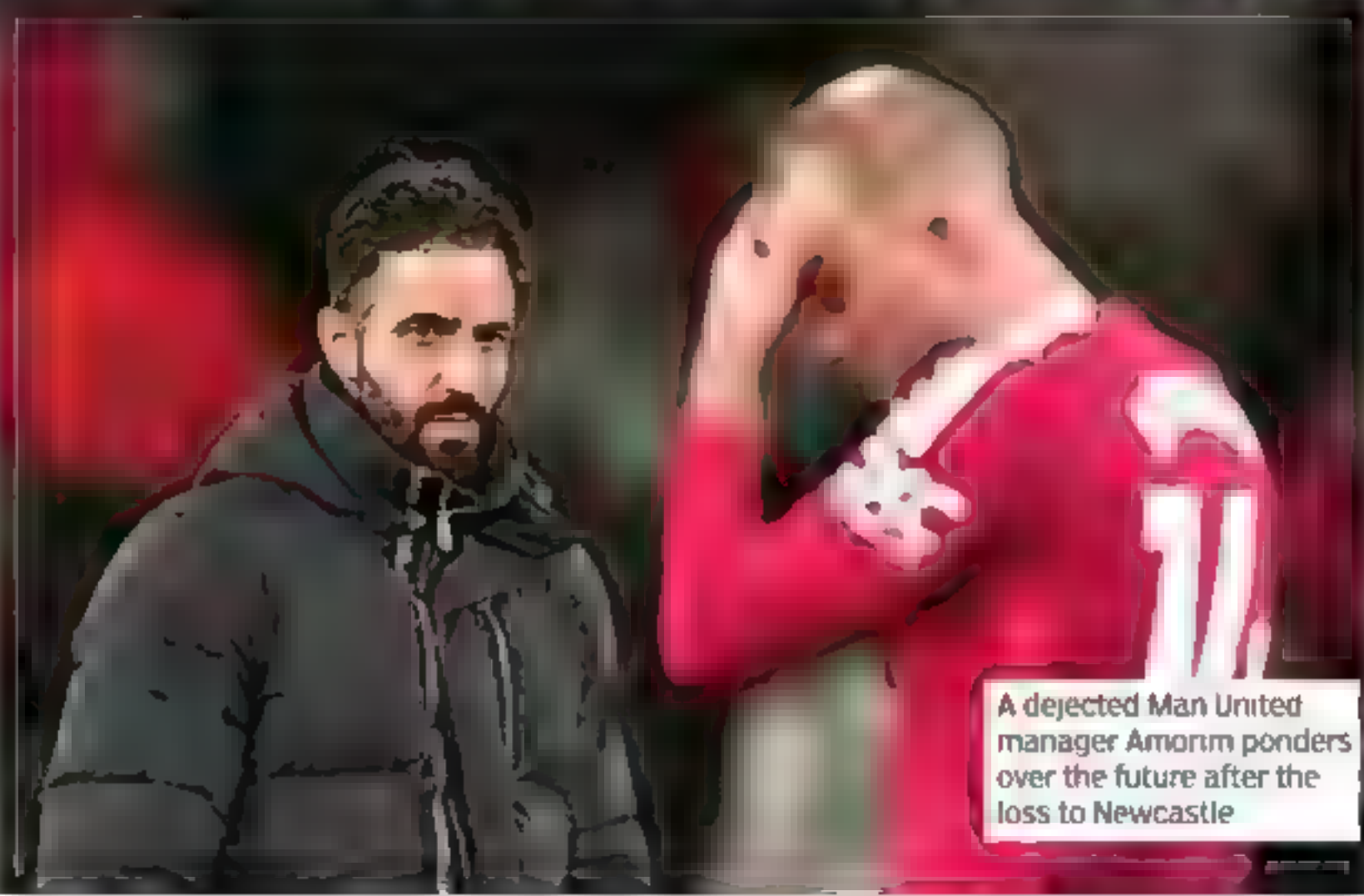
- 2** Newcastle United have managed to defeat Manchester United at the Old Trafford United’s home for just the second time in 40 league games.
- 3** Manchester United have lost three Premier League games in a row for first time since 1979.
- 14** Manchester United have finished the year at the 14th position in the points table – their worst performance since 1989.

worst pound for pound team in the country.”

There have been questions over Amorim’s commitment to his tactical 3-4-3 approach, and there were even more after Monday’s loss. The defensive issues that plagued former manager Erik ten Hag have haunted Amorim as well, with both goals on Monday coming largely thanks to blunders in the back line.

“Of course, I didn’t choose the players specifically for that position, but that I already knew,” Amorim said, when asked if he has the talent to play his formation. “I have to sell my idea, if I’m going to change all the time it is going to be even worse.”

“But I understand that they have a lot of difficulties, because they spent two years playing one way and then they are playing another. And with a lot of losses, it is really very tough on them. I have to sell my idea. I don’t have any other choice.”



A dejected Man United manager Amorim ponders over the future after the loss to Newcastle

No one expected Chelsea to be where they are now: Maresca

Ipswich: Ipswich Town put a dent in Chelsea’s Premier League title hopes with a 2-0 win at Portman Road on Monday, but the west London side’s head coach Enzo Maresca said no one expected his young team to be in their current position this season.

Chelsea were stunned by the promoted side after Liam Delap and Omari Hutchinson scored either side of the break, which dropped Maresca’s side down to fourth place, 10 points behind leaders Liverpool who have a game in hand. Having finished sixth in the last campaign and 12th in the 2022-23

season, Chelsea hired Maresca in June after he guided Leicester City to the English Championship title in his first season in charge.

“Not one of us in this room expected us to be where we are now,” Maresca told reporters.

“This means and shows that we are in the right direction, as I’ve said many times, but also shows that we are far from competing (with) consistency and to be there with the best teams in England. I think we (have) to be satisfied with where

we are, but at the same time we need to know we (can) do things better.”

Maresca has consistently played down his expensively assembled squad’s title chances, despite some impressive victories this season.

Chelsea have now collected just one point from their last three league outings. But the Italian said recent results were unavoidable.

“We expected this kind of moment during the season because we know that this kind of moment belongs to football. It is almost impossible to have a season where you do not have a moment like now for us,” he said.



ENZO MARESCA

LAMPTEY RESCUES POINT FOR BRIGHTON AT ASTON VILLA

Birmingham: Brighton & Hove Albion’s Tariq Lamptey drove home a late equaliser to earn his side a point in a lively 2-2 draw at Aston Villa in the Premier League on Monday. Villa had come from behind to lead with an Ollie Watkins penalty and a Morgan Rogers effort just after the interval but Brighton deservedly left with a share of the spoils. Lamptey was played in by Joao Pedro’s clever flick and volleyed home first-time in the 81st minute. Villa remained in ninth place with 29 points from 19 games with Brighton’s second draw of the festive period leaving them two points behind in 10th spot.

Both sides will enter the new year with aspirations of qualifying for Europe and there was plenty of evidence to suggest both could realise that ambition in 2025 although Brighton are now on a seven-match winless streak. A game of 33 goal attempts made for great viewing and a point apiece was about right in the end, even if both managers will feel they could have bagged all three points.

Barca hoping for financial lever approved to get Olmo registered

Barcelona: Barcelona will need to have another financial lever approved by the Spanish league in order to register playmaker Dani Olmo for the rest of the season after a judge ruled against the club. It was the second consecutive court setback against Barcelona as it tries to register the player before the end-of-the-year deadline.

Without the court’s backing, Olmo’s contract can’t be registered beyond the end of 2024 unless Barcelona convinces the league that it will be able to make up enough salary cap room to register him in the squad. Olmo moved from Leipzig to Barcelona in August.

Spanish media reported that Barcelona is set to get approval from the league in time after it reached a deal to sell VIP seats at the renovated Camp Nou stadium for 100 million euros (\$104 million). That would reportedly be enough to allow Barcelona to add Olmo and forward Pau Victor to the squad.

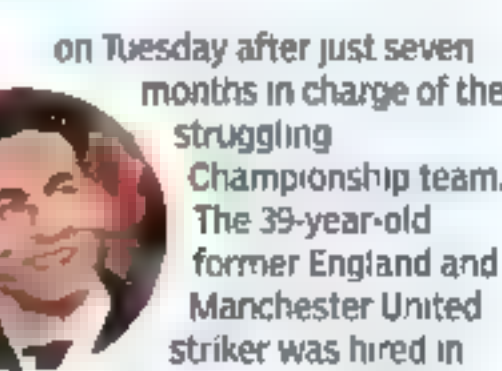
Each Spanish league club has a salary cap which is calculated based on a series of factors that include revenues, costs and debts. It is proportional to roughly 70% of a club’s revenues. Barcelona has endured difficulties registering some players recently because of its financial struggles. It has resorted to a series of financial levers in recent years, including the sale of future television rights. The club’s financial struggles led to the departure of Lionel Messi in 2021.



DANI OLMO

EMOTIONAL NAVAS BIDS FAREWELL

Retiring Spanish football legend Jesus Navas tearfully bid farewell to his playing career on Monday with songs, chants and other tributes at a ceremony at Sevilla’s packed Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan stadium. The 39-year-old winger – Sevilla and the Spanish national team’s most-decorated player – will officially retire when his contract expires on December 31 due to a painful and chronic hip injury which has plagued him in recent seasons.



on Tuesday after just seven months in charge of the struggling Championship team. The 39-year-old former England and Manchester United striker was hired in May and departs with Plymouth last in the English second tier with four wins in 23 games this season. His final game was a 2-0 loss to Oxford United on Sunday which extended Argyle’s winless run to nine games.

Cunha banned for two games: Wolverhampton Wanderers forward Matheus Cunha was suspended for two games and fined 80,000 pounds (\$100,296.00) following his clash with Ipswich Town

staff after a Premier League match earlier this month, the FA said on Tuesday. The Brazilian was charged with misconduct after striking a member of Ipswich’s staff with his arm at the end of their 2-1 home loss on Dec 14.

Southgate awarded knighthood: Former England men’s senior football manager Gareth Southgate has been recognised in the New Year Honours List for 2025.

After leading England to four major tournaments and overseeing two Euro Finals and a World Cup semifinal appearance, Southgate has been awarded a knighthood, having previously been made an OBE in 2019, the FA said in a release.

Hyderabad win with bonus point against Delhi in HIL

Rourkela: Hyderabad Toofans grabbed a bonus point after prevailing over Delhi SG Pipers 5-4 in shoot-out after both sides were locked 2-2 at the end of regulation time in their Hockey India League (HIL) match here on Tuesday.

Hyderabad Toofans took a 2-0 lead through Amandeep Lakra (11th minute) and Gonzalo Peillat (13th) before Delhi SG Pipers drew level with goals from Dilraj Singh (21st) and Gareth Furlong (50th).

Hyderabad Toofans broke the deadlock through Amandeep in the 11th minute after a perfectly executed penalty corner. Amandeep generated a lot of power with his low driving shot that left Delhi SG Pipers goalkeeper Pawan with no chance. The Hyderabad side scored a quick second minute from the first quarter off a penalty corner through Peillat.

Delhi SG Pipers reduced the margin in the 21st minute through Dhiraaj, who showed

great presence of mind to lift the ball over the Toofans keeper in the 34th minute. Hyderabad’s Rajinder Singh hit a low driving shot from distance, which took a deflection and ended up at the back of the net but the goal was not counted as the final touch came outside the circle. In the 37th minute Delhi SG Pipers had its first penalty-corner of the match but they could not capitalise on the chance as Hyderabad went into the third quarter with a 2-1 lead. It was do-or-die battle in the third quarter but both sides failed to get any result despite creating numerous opportunities.

Delhi SG Pipers finally drew level in the 50th minute when Furlong scored from a well-executed penalty-corner. Peillat came close to scoring the winner for Hyderabad two minutes from time but his shot from the penalty corner rattled the post and came back into play.

Djokovic, Sabalenka start season with wins

Brisbane: Novak Djokovic and Aryana Sabalenka began their season with straight set wins but Nick Kyrgios’ return to singles did not go according to his plans at the Brisbane International on Tuesday.

Djokovic tamed local favourite Rinky Hijikata 6-3 6-3 in what was the top seeded Serbian’s first four-level singles match since October. A day after his doubles win alongside Kyrgios, Djokovic was precise with his serve and ground strokes as he outclassed Hijikata to set up a second round clash with Gael Monfils.

Women’s world No. 1 Sabalenka sent a warning on her season debut with a 6-4 6-0 demolition of Renata Zarazua.

Kyrgios proves match fitness in a losing cause: If Nick Kyrgios was attempting to prove his match fitness after 18 months off the tour due to wrist and knee injuries, he did a good job on Tuesday, albeit in a losing cause at the Brisbane

International. In a match that lasted 2 hours, 27 minutes at Pat Rafter Arena, 21-year-old Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard of France beat the 29-year-old Australian in three tiebreak sets – 7-6 (2), 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3).

Dominant US and Italy reach United Cup quarterfinals

Sydney: United States and Italy handed out 3-0 thrashings to Croatia and France to top their groups and sail into the quarterfinals of the United Cup on Tuesday. Taylor Fritz’s 6-3, 6-2 win against Borna Coric in men’s singles ensured the US, who meet China in the quarterfinals, topped Group A.

Coco Gauff was equally dominant in her 6-4 6-2 win over Donna Vekic in women’s singles. Gauff and Fritz were equally impressive in their mixed doubles win.

Earlier, Italy’s Flavio Cobolli saved a match point to get the better of Frenchman Ugo Humbert 3-6 7-6 (8) 6-2 in Group D in Sydney.

Bengal win Santosh Trophy for 33rd time

Hyderabad: West Bengal extended their supremacy in the National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy with a 1-0 win over Kerala in the summit showdown here on Tuesday, claiming the title for an unprecedented 33rd time.

Robi Hansda scored the only goal of the match in the added time of the second half. Robi found the back of the net with an easy finish from point-blank range after Aditya Thapa headed the ball into the box.

Both the sides have shown form befitting of their stature in the tournament, winning nine of their 10 matches, while drawing one each during their march to the title clash. In recent times, however, seven-time winners Kerala have had the edge over their eastern rivals, winning the 2017-18 and the 2021-22 titles.

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Happy Women's Wednesday

SMART BAZAAR

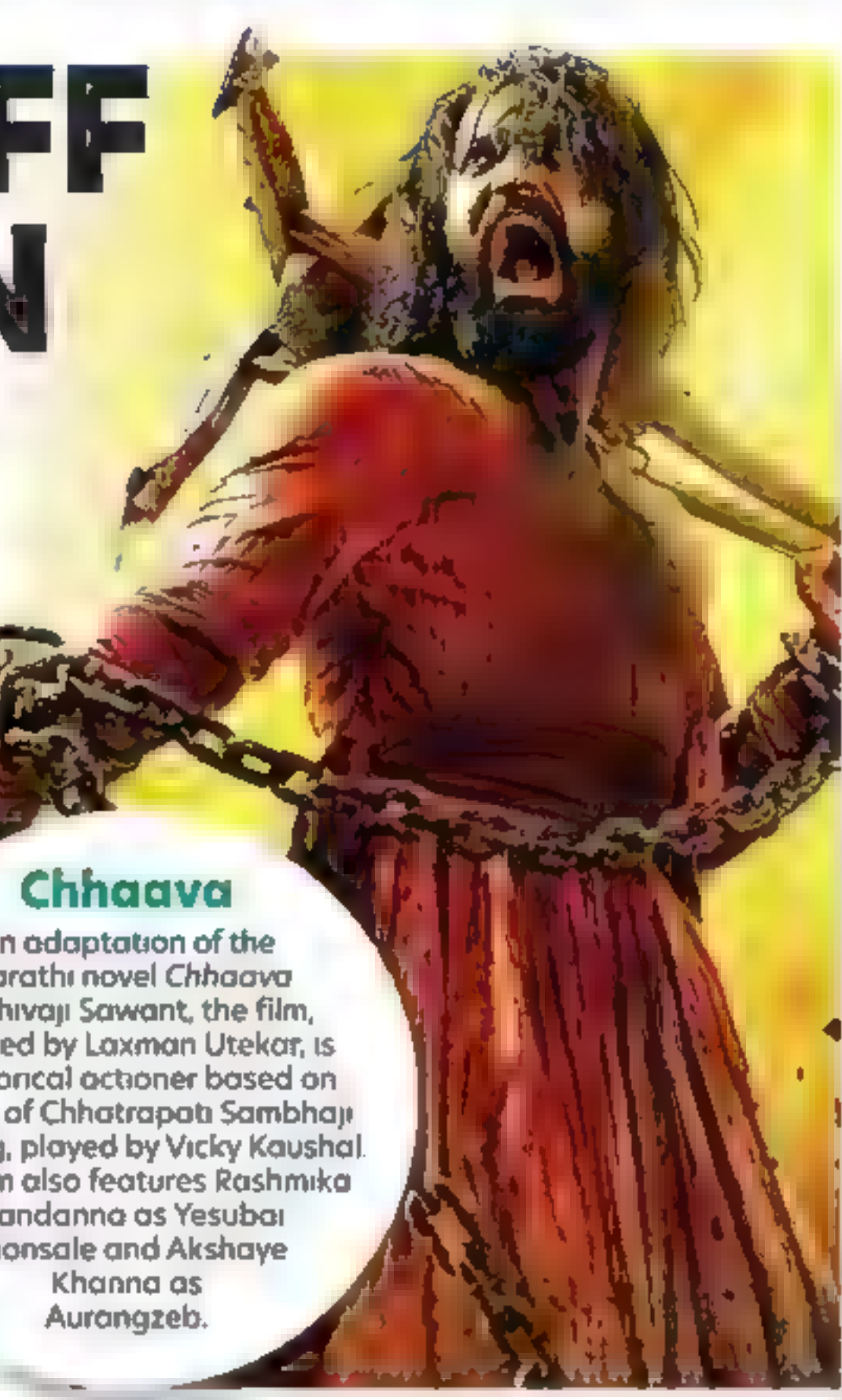
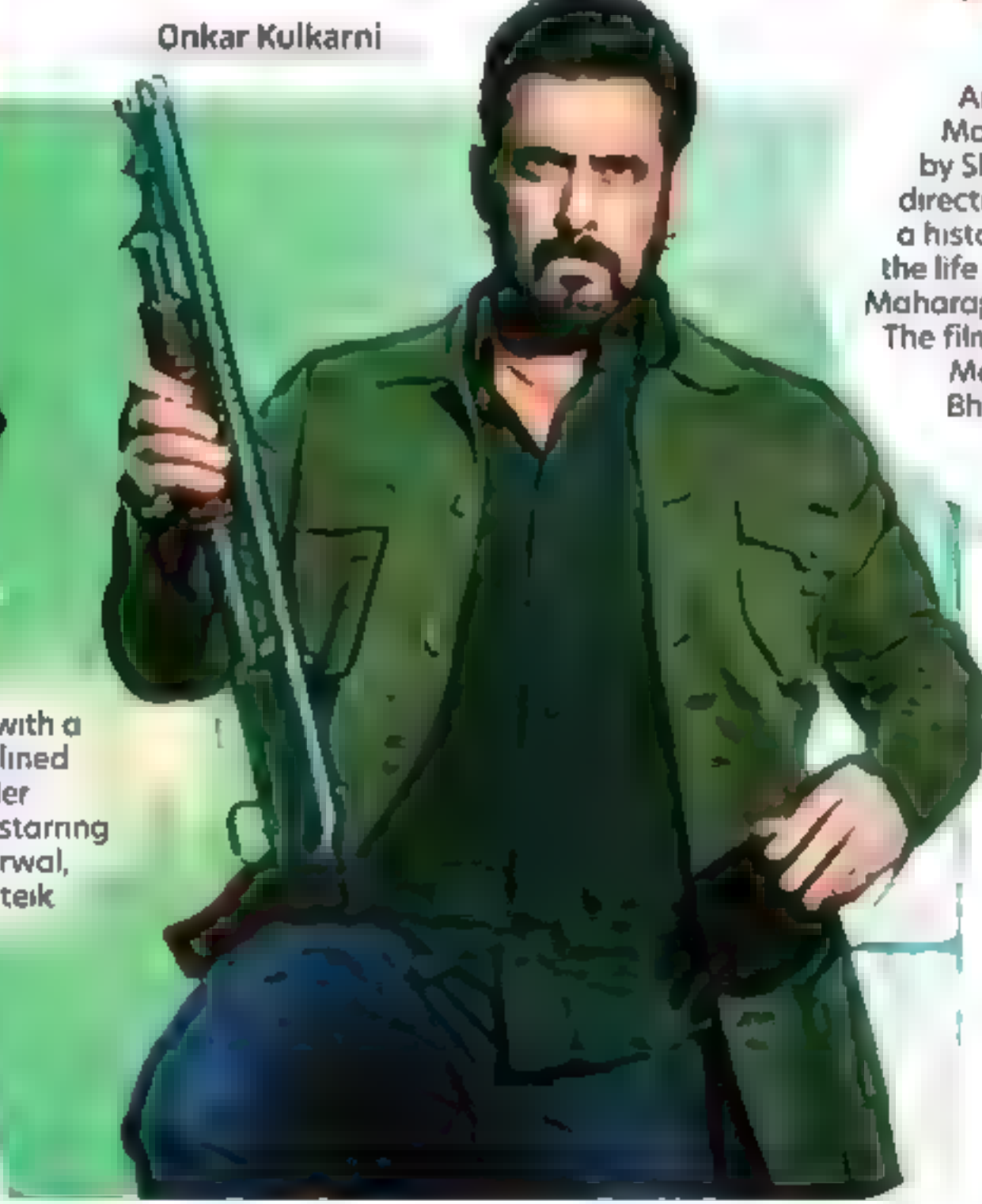
WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY

JASHN JEET KA



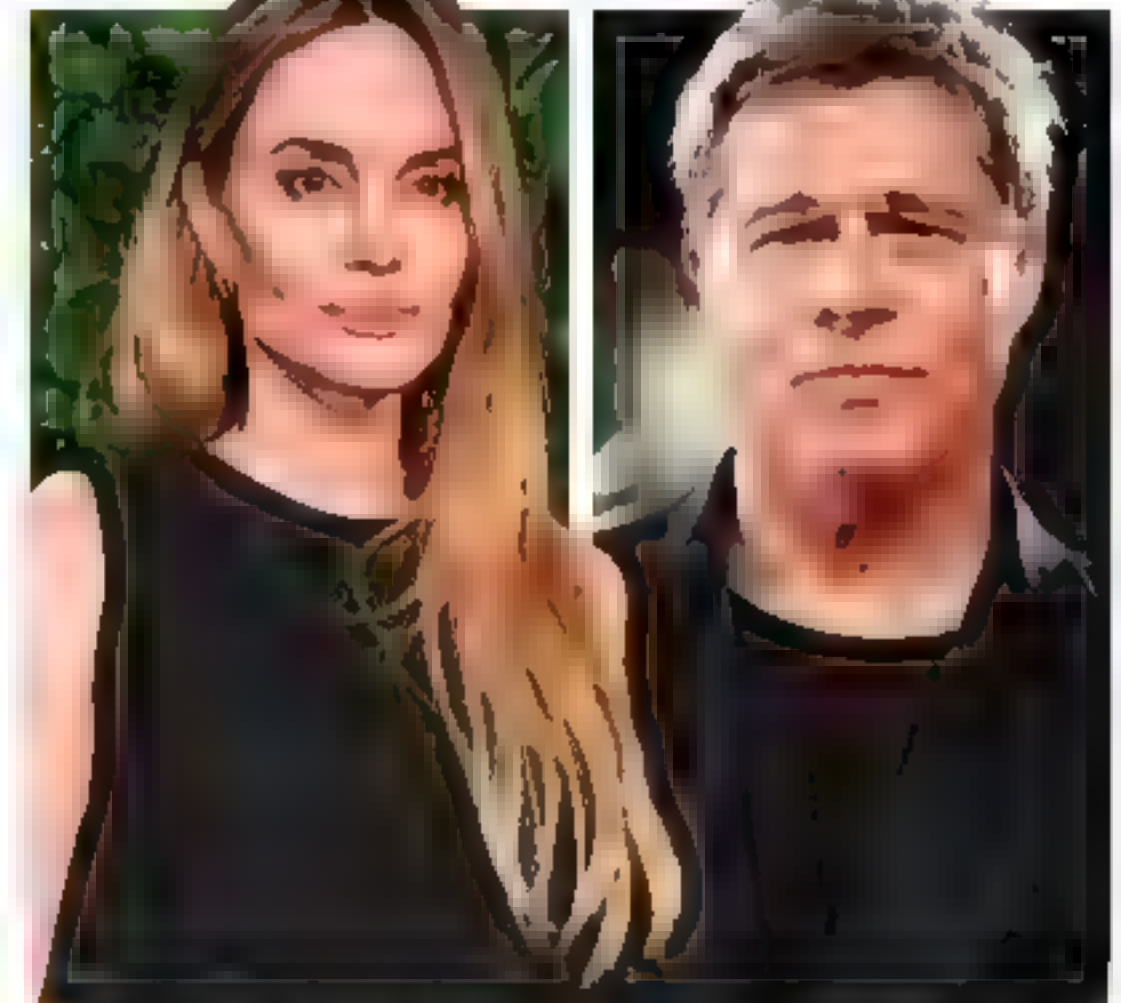
2025 KICKS OFF WITH ACTION AND THRILL

Hindi cinema is looking forward to a *dhamakedaar* 2025, with a mix of action, drama, comedy and thrillers set to explode on the big screen. Here's a quick look at the films that will woo the viewers in the first quarter of the year



'The first quarter of 2025 will be action-packed'
Akshaye Rath, exhibitor, says, "These films don't just have big stars, but are also being helmed by great filmmakers. The first quarter of 2025 will be absolutely action-packed for the box office. S Shankar is a massy filmmaker and is doing a film with Ram Charan and Kiara Advani. Dinesh Vijan (producer), who doesn't go wrong with storytelling, is backing Sky Force with Akshay Kumar. Loveyapa, starring Junaid Khan and Khushi Kapoor, is adapted from a Tamil hit. I feel Chhaava will do good business as it's a tale not known beyond Maharashtra. 2024 wasn't that great in sustaining the exhibition sector, with only a handful of films like Pushpa 2, Street 2 and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, among a few others, doing great. We are hoping that 2025 proves to be a wonderful year."

Angie-Brad settle their divorce 8 years after filing



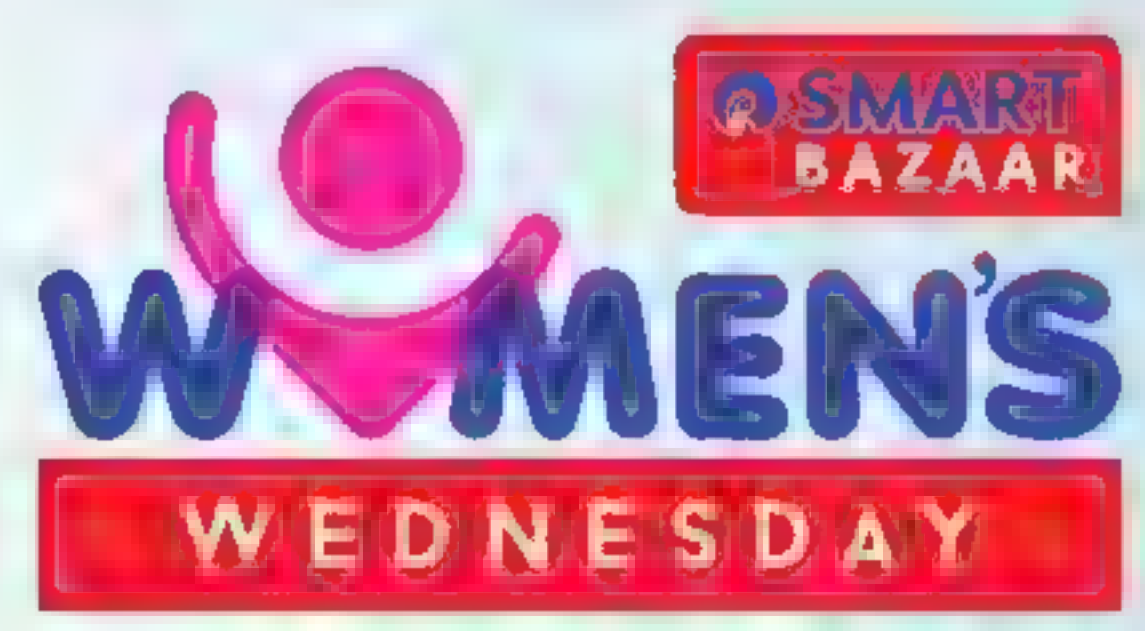
Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have reached a divorce settlement, her lawyer told Reuters on Tuesday, bringing an end to one of Hollywood's most contentious and closely followed celebrity splits. Jolie filed for a divorce from Pitt, her husband of two years and romantic partner since 2005 eight years ago. "This is just one part of a long ongoing process that started eight years ago. Frankly, Angelina is exhausted, but she is relieved this one part is over," Jolie's lawyer James Simon said in a statement, adding that a divorce settlement has been finalised, signed and filed with the court. Jolie had cited irreconcilable differences in the divorce filing. She subsequently sought full physical custody of their six children, with visitation rights for Pitt. Agencies



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मिलने-मिलाने का
नए दोस्त बनाने का.
खुशियों का
कुछ बांटने का, कुछ पाने का
कुछ कहने-सुनने का.
कुछ अपने लिए चुनने का
थोड़ी शॉपिंग का
ढेर सारी सेविंग्स का
बुधवार है जश्न जीत का.

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Did You Know?

World's first scheduled commercial flight was only 23 minutes long

The world's first scheduled commercial flight took place on January 1, 1914, between St Petersburg and Tampa, Florida. The flight was just 23 minutes long and carried one passenger. It was organised just a few months before that New Year's first takeoff. The airline was the brainchild of an electrical engineer.



BEST OF DELHI NCR

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POV

Why our airports need some 'chai-samosa' love

Ramesh Bhai got it right. Hyderabad-based influencer Ramesh, that is: in the news as he turned *chawallah* aboard a domestic flight, serving tea to his co-passengers in small, disposable cups, from a steel flask. Exactly the Indian Railways way, mid-air at 30,000 feet. While debates were sparked on airline safety protocols, some passengers wanted a *samosa* with the tea.

We take travel snacking more seriously than on-time departure and maybe even comfortable seats. Which is why it is not uncommon to find large groups and families virtually hosting a picnic at departure lounges. *Khakras*, *paratha* rolls, *biryani* and bananas. Anything that would otherwise come with a hefty price tag at airport eateries.

The snacking continues on-air, where we pay through



from the windows as local specialties and *kutahs* of *chai* are passed around.

Given that air travel no longer comes with the bells and whistles of its elitist origins, would you blame people if they expect the same *chai-samosa*

our noses for 'dehydrated delights' noodles, *poha*, *rajma*, sandwiches. Mostly inedible, hugely overrated. But eat, we must. Even if it is a short flight. A legacy perhaps from our days of train travel where our elders would share home food with fellow passengers, and stories would be swapped over railway curries and tomato soup. Even now, every time long distance trains pull up at a platform, hands emerge

experience while flying?

In September 2024, P Chidambaram had raised concerns about the exorbitant prices of food and beverages at the Kolkata airport, where he was charged ₹340 for 'tea made of hot water and a tea bag'. In the winter session of Parliament, MP Raghav Chadha had flagged the issue of overpriced food and beverages at airports.

The government caught on. Last week, the ministry of civil aviation and the Airports Authority of India inaugurated the first UDAN Yatri Cafe of the country at the Kolkata airport, offering a budget-friendly menu (tea and water for ₹10). There is *samosa*, too - for ₹20 apiece.

In these times of mercurial brawls over delays and flight disruptions, an affordable cup of tea and hot *samosa* could go a long way in dealing with turbulence. Whether on ground or in the air.

Agree? Disagree? Got a POV idea? Write to us at: poa@timesofindia.com

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LEISURE

Level: Medium
HOW TO PLAY
Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9 without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

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GARFIELD
THAT'S CUTE
UM-OH
I'LL KNOW THIS DRESS IS A WINNER. IF IT MAKES ARCHIE SAY "WOW."
WELL? DID HE SAY "WOW"? NOT YET.
...BUT I THINK HE WILL ONCE HIS JAW UNFREEZES!

Today's Ratings:
12 average/14 good/16 outstanding
How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

DENNIS THE MENACE
THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE I REMEMBER WAS JUST THIS TALL!

HOW TO PLAY
1. A number may appear just once in each row or column. Eliminate repeat numbers by darkening cells. (see example)
2. Darkened cells must never be adjacent in a row or column.
3. Unmarked cells must create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells.
4. Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, which means they cannot be eliminated.
5. Any cell "sandwiched" between neighbours of the same value can be circled. (e.g. 6 4 6)
6. A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cell, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 4 6)

Example

LOOP THE LOOP
RULES
• Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A)
• Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B)
• Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.
• You can't draw lines around zeroes.
• Each puzzle has just one unique solution.
HOW TO BEGIN:
Example (Fig A): Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible. i.e. if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend (Fig B).

SCRAMBLE
BTAEE
OOTRR
EIKCT
EELRCH
HOW TO PLAY
Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated.
Habits change into ____ (9)

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THE DAILY CROSSWORD
By Laura Dershewitz
01/01/2025

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved
ACROSS
1 Pre-weekend shout
5 Spot for a hoop
9 Subsided
14 Pro gratis
15 Unanswered, as a question
16 Eternal City fountain
17 Put in the fridge to warm up
19 Bistros
20 Common laundry no-show
21 Punny pencil
23 Lose on purpose
24 Word with green or silver
26 Hall of Fame coach Summitt
28 Part of 1-Across
29 Fluffy dog, familiarly
30 Stag or doe
33 Burns a bit
35 Rode an enchanted broomsback, maybe
37 Tow truck
39 Autumn-weather advice for staying comfortable, or a description of each set of circled letters
43 "Soup's on!"
44 Scene scenes
46 D.C. subway
48 "Remixing Since Forever" (ice cream brand)
50 Blubber
51 Student carrier
52 French pal
54 Garlicy sauces
56 Legendary Arthur
58 First name in jazz
61 Like Puss in Boots
62 Shrubby landscape
64 Delivered by plane, as emergency supplies
67 Luminous vibes
68 "U slay me!"
69 "Actually, I disagree"
DOWN
70 Hint at
74 Site built with two cents?
72 Ping-Pong table dividers
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SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES
TIMES SUOKU
LOOP THE LOOP
TIMES HITORI
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Answer: Habits change into Ovoid



Tanya Maniktala runs forward, carrying hopes for 2025!

HERE'S TO HOPING THAT GREATER THINGS WILL HAPPEN IN 2025: TANYA



Riya Sharma

Kill actress Tanya Maniktala spent her New Year's Eve with her family in Delhi. Surrounded by the warmth of her loved ones, the actress shares that she is thankful for the year that has gone by and is looking forward to the year ahead. "I spent New Year's Eve with my family. It is our tradition that we all spend the new year together since my siblings aren't here. I think Delhi winters make it

even better. Delhi has warmth even in this freezing cold. You have the warmth of your family and your loved ones," says the Delhi girl. Tanya adds that she is grateful for 2024. "There was a lot of learning. I am grateful for the year and for the coming year, I don't know what to expect but I am hoping for good things, onwards and upwards. Here's to hoping greater things will happen for us this year," wishes the lead star of *A Suitable Boy*.

There was a lot of learning. I am grateful for 2024 and for the coming year, I don't know what to expect but I am hoping for good things, onwards and upwards

Coming to Delhi feels like coming home: Gurmeet Choudhary



Gurmeet Choudhary says, "I love visiting India Gate, catching up with old friends and indulging in *rajma* with *ragi roti*!"

Riya Sharma

Coming back to Delhi is always special for Gurmeet Choudhary, who lived here during his modelling days. On his recent visit to the city, the actor took a stroll in Khan Market and ate *rajma* with *ragi roti*. "Coming here always feels like coming home. The love and warmth I receive from the people here is unmatched. Delhi has a unique vibe, it is energetic and full of life, and every visit reminds me of the incredible memories I've made here," shares Gurmeet.

Gurmeet adds that the city reminds him of his journey - from his modelling days to how far he has come. "Delhi has grown beautifully, and so has my connection with it. Over the years, it has become one of my most frequent destinations for promotions and events. Personally, I love

I miss the simplicity of my time here during my modelling days. The charm of Delhi's streets, the lively culture, and my early struggles shaped me

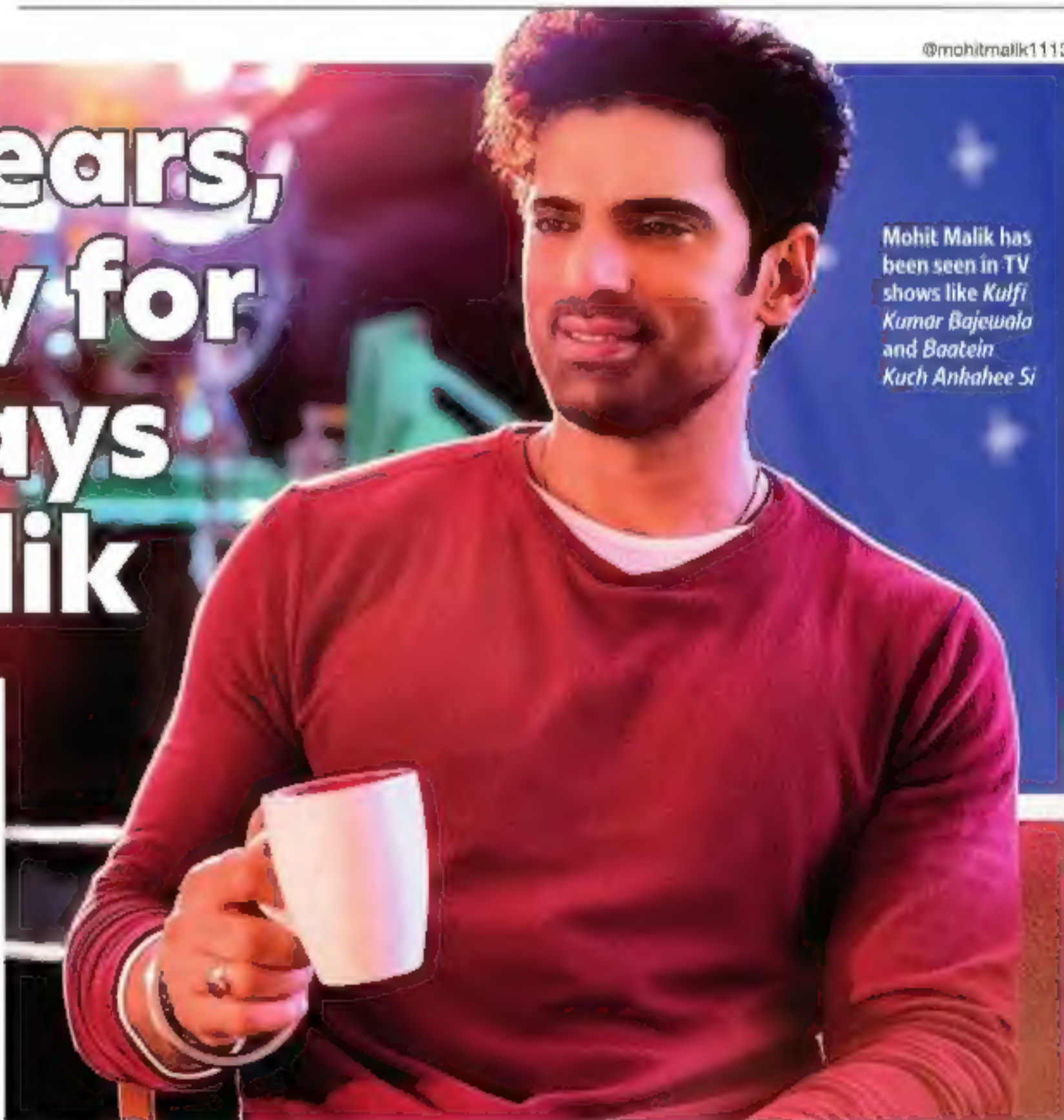
its vibrant energy and how it makes me feel appreciated and loved. The city never fails to remind me of my journey and how far I've come," says the actor, who also has a list of his must-do's in the city whenever he is here. "I love visiting India Gate, catching up with old friends to relive cherished memories, indulging in *rajma* with *ragi roti* for a taste of nostalgia, exploring Delhi's streets to soak in its unique vibe, and interacting with fans," adds Gurmeet.

A DELIGHTFUL VISIT: NEHHA AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN



Nehha Pendse recently visited Rashtrapati Bhavan and shared pictures on her social media account. Along with the pictures, she wrote, "Delightful, enlightening tour of our Rashtrapati Bhavan (sic)"

After 19 years, I am ready for movies, says Mohit Malik



Mohit Malik has been seen in TV shows like *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala* and *Boat in Kuch Ankahee Si*

Mohit Malik is all set to make his Bollywood debut. The actor will be seen playing the antagonist in Abhishek Kapoor's film *Azaad*. Mohit, who has played a variety of roles, from an abusive husband to a gentle musician on TV, says after 19 years, he is finally ready to act in a film. "I have been working in showbiz for the past 19 years, but in the initial years, the goal was to earn money and run my home. Also, I wanted to hone my skills and then give movies a shot. Since the past few years, I have been feeling that it was time to branch out, and I am glad I bagged this offer."

'I HAD TO START FROM SCRATCH TO BAG A FILM IN BOLLYWOOD'
TV actors often say that it's not easy for them to get into

films. Sharing his experience, Mohit says, "I will not say it is an easy process for any actor to bag a good film. Even after working in TV for so long, it was a completely new journey when I started giving auditions and meeting people for films. People did not judge me because I was a TV actor, but they felt that it is a different medium and one has to prove oneself again. The difficult part is how you have to start from scratch even after working for two decades in showbiz. I had to clear three rounds of auditions to bag a role in *Azaad*. Also, I am not a star kid, so I had no background. I am just glad that I bagged a film with a good filmmaker, rest will be my hard work and destiny."

'HAVE PLAYED ROLES WHICH HAVE LAYERS'
Mohit clarifies that he doesn't plan to quit TV or OTT for films. He says, "I am looking at playing interesting roles across all mediums. In my OTT show *Chamak*, I played a queer character. Many actors had rejected the role, but I saw it as a challenge. I have always played roles which have layers."

— Tanvi Trivedi

Even after working in TV for so long, it was a new journey when I started giving auditions for films

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• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

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Kareena Kapoor embraced the baingani hue for Dussehra

BAINGANI TO SHEER: How 2024 revived iconic style trends

In 2024, fashion enthusiasts and influencers were all treated to a nostalgic wave of trends that once defined iconic eras in style. Yet, these trends weren't simply resurrected; they evolved, infused with modern sensibilities and embraced by a new generation of fashion-forward thinkers. From the revival of 'bold deep purple' hues to the resurgence of sheer fabrics, 2024 saw an exciting mix of reinventions and remixes from the past. Here's a closer look... ANI

The 'baingani' resurrection

While purple has always been associated with nobility, in 2024, baingani hues dominated haute couture runways, weddings as well as street-style fashion. From Kareena Kapoor to Deepika Padukone, several celebs sported the hue. On the international stage, Tyra Banks closed the 2024 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in a bold purple silhouette proving that purple - once the colour of emperors and queens - is now a symbol of modern luxury.

Deepika Padukone wore a baingani bejewelled saree to Anant Ambani's sangeet; (right) Sonam Kapoor turned heads with a statement corset belt in Paris

The statement belt's resurgence

The year also saw the return of statement belts. These wide, bold and often heavily embellished belts were a highlight of both casual and formal ensembles, adding definition to waists and drawing attention to the silhouette. From Sonam Kapoor to Shilpa Shetty, several celebs sported belts adorned with metal studs or oversized buckles in 2024.

Sheer revival

Sheer fabrics, often associated with the glamour and allure of the late 90s and early 2000s, made a comeback in 2024, capturing the fashion world's attention with its bold sensuality and unexpected versatility. Sheer fabrics also became a red carpet staple in 2024 with celebs like Jennifer Lopez and Alia Bhatt sporting sheer ensembles at the 2024 Met Gala.

The rise of luxe sportswear

The year saw the rise of luxe sportswear, a trend that blurred the lines between athletic gear and high fashion. Luxe fabrics like silk and satin were incorporated into sporty designs, and tailored athletic pieces were seen on runways.

Casually co-ord

In 2024, co-ord sets were a fashion staple, offering effortless style and comfort. Versatile for any occasion, celebs like Kriti Sanon and Bhumi Pednekar were seen embracing co-ords for work as well as travel. The trend continues to grow, with gender-neutral options.

2024
REWIND

Alia Bhatt wowed at the 2024 Met Gala in a handcrafted sheer sari and a gem-studded blouse; (right) Kriti Sanon made a vintage statement in a cherry-red co-ord set with chunky gold buttons

FAST FASHION AMONG TOP THREATS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

2024: A red alert year for earth

The world experienced more than double the number of natural disasters, especially hurricanes, cyclones, floods and rains, in 2024 than the number experienced 20 years ago, says a report by World Population Review

In 2024, environmental scientists from Germany published a red alert on November 24th. Of nine key parameters (or planetary boundaries) they checked, six are in the red. The year was the hottest one on record; the world witnessed heavy loss of life and property due to meteorological calamities such as hurricanes, cyclones, torrential rain and floods. Cryosphere scientists from around the world warned of disastrous impact of melting ice on billions worldwide, and the list goes on. And the culprit behind it all - human activities. Each of us had a hand in damaging our only home in the universe.

A 73% decline in wildlife

According to World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)'s Living Planet Report 2024, the world's wildlife population has declined by 73% in the past 50 years. "Between 1970 and 2020, the size of wildlife populations plummeted by 73% on average. This is based on almost 35,000 population trends across 5,495 species of amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and reptiles. Regionally, the worst losses happened in Latin America (-95%)" the report said, adding that freshwater species experienced a disturbing 85% decline.

A gizmo graveyard

E-waste or electronic waste refers to discarded electrical and electronic products such as computers, TVs, earphones, smartphones, circuits, etc. Most e-waste is considered hazardous. By 2024, the earth has amassed around 347 metric tonnes of unrecycled e-waste, with China, the US and India producing most of it, says a report by theroundup.org.

54kg of food was wasted by each Indian in 2024*

If you waste food without a thought...

According to an earth.org report citing data from Our World in Data, around 1.3 billion tonnes of food intended for human consumption is wasted or lost. "This is enough to feed 3 billion people," the report said. According to the data, almost 40% of the waste occurs at the post-harvest and processing levels, while in developed countries, 40% of it occurs at the retail and consumer levels.

Can't bear to repeat outfits? Think again

Various reports show that the fashion industry now accounts for 10% of global carbon emissions, 8% greenhouse gas emissions, and 9% of the annual microplastic pollution in our oceans. In 2024, statistics peg textile waste generated globally at more than 92 million tonnes.

20% of global wastewater (93bn cubic metres) is generated by dyeing textiles**

1% of the 3,230 kilo tonne e-waste produced in India in 2024 was recycled*

The hottest year on record

The year was the first on record to see more than 1.5°C rise in global temperatures compared to pre-industrial times. According to Copernicus, the European Union's Climate Change Service, 2024 is sure to be the hottest year on record. "It is virtually certain that 2024 will be the warmest in the ERA5 reanalysis dataset, going back to 1940, based on the data available through October," said a Copernicus report, adding, "October 2024 was 1.65°C above pre-industrial level."

Sources: *UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024, **UNEP, *theroundup.org, **Nov 24 report by Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research, Germany, + World Population Review report on natural disasters in 2024, ++State of the Cryosphere 2024 - Lost Ice, Global Damage report (published Nov 12) - Compiled by Upam Buzarbaruah

After Gen Alpha, Generation Beta to arrive in 2025



A new generation, called the Generation Beta, is set to arrive in 2025. This will comprise children born between 2025 and 2039. According to social researcher Mark McCrindle, who is often credited with defining the generational labels, this new generation is estimated to make up 16% of the global population by 2035. In his blog post, McCrindle says, "Gen Beta will grow up in an era dominated by AI, autonomous transport, and immersive technologies." He adds, "With climate change, global population shifts, and rapid urbanisation at the forefront, sustainability will not just be a preference but an expectation."

Interestingly, parents of Gen Betas - who will mainly be Gen Zers - may adopt a different approach to social media use. They will prioritise limiting screen time, having witnessed the pros and cons of early social media exposure firsthand.

Adding to this, another generational expert Jason Dorsey states that Gen Betas will learn about the COVID-19 pandemic in their history class. He told the NBC News, "It'll be something that maybe older siblings went through, certainly something they learn about in history, but not something that is necessarily a contemporary event."

By the time Gen Beta will be old enough to vote, Gen Z may hold elected positions.

Challenges for Gen Beta

Growing up in a hyper-digital world, Gen Beta will experience social connections differently, says McCrindle. "We predict Gen Beta will embody the balance between hyper-connectivity and personal expression."

'CONFIDENT THAT 2025 WILL START WITH A BANG'

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Akshay Kumar, R Madhavan and Ananya Panday's untitled film

Akshay Kumar, R Madhavan and Ananya Panday have teamed up for an yet-untitled film, based on acclaimed lawyer C Sankaran Nair, who fought a legal battle against the British empire in the 1920s. The film will mark directorial debut of writer Karan Singh Tyagi and is based on the book, *The Case That Shook the Empire* by Raghu Palat and Pushpa Palat.

Fateh

In the film that marks Sonu Sood's directorial debut, he will also be seen playing the titular character as an ex-Special Ops operative. The action thriller also features Jacqueliene Fernandez, along with Naseeruddin Shah and Vijay Raaz in key roles.

Emergency

Directed by Kangana Ranaut, the film, which is a biographical action drama based on the state of Indian Emergency, will see the actress leading the show. Kangana plays former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. The film also stars Anupam Kher, Shreyas Talpade, Mahima Chaudhry and Milind Soman.

Thandel

Thandel will be Naga Chaitanya's first release post his wedding with Sobhita Dhulipala. Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, the Telugu film also stars Sai Pallavi.

Game Changer

Ram Charan plays a double role in this pan-India political action thriller directed by S. Shankar, which also stars Kiara Advani.

Captain America: Brave New World

The American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character Sam Wilson / Captain America is the fourth instalment in the *Captain America* film series, a continuation of the television miniseries, *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* (2021). The film is directed by Julius Onah and stars Anthony Mackie as Sam Wilson / Captain America.

OTHER RELEASES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2025

Sanki

After making his debut with *Tadap* in 2021, Ahan Shetty is back with his next, titled *Sanki*. The film also starring Pooja Hegde, is directed by Adnan A Shaikh and Yasir Jah.

Sky Force

The war film directed by Abhishek Anil Kapur and Sandeep Kewlani, stars Akshay Kumar, Nimrat Kaur and Sara Ali Khan. Joining them in the cast is Veer Pahariya (marking his debut). *Sky Force* is a take on India's retaliatory attack on Pakistan's Sargodha airbase in the Indo-Pak air war of 1965.

Loveyapa

Newcomers Junaid Khan and Khushi Kapoor's upcoming romantic comedy *Loveyapa* releases in February. Described as a "tangled tale of love and its complications with a mix of fun and laughter", the film is directed by Advait Chandra of *Laal Singh Chaddha* and *Secret Superstar* fame. The film is said to be a remake of the 2022 Tamil movie *Love Today*.

'There's a significant rise in the number of concerts in India'

Planjit Kumar

2024 REWIND

'We currently lack good infrastructure for music concerts and festivals'

He adds that while the number of concerts in India is going up, there is an urgent need to develop concert venues in different cities. "When we recently performed in Delhi, at Central Park in Connaught Place, the venue was for 4,000-5,000 people, but around 12,000 people attended the concert. We currently lack good infrastructure for music concerts and festivals. We need more venues. Auditoriums and amphitheatres should be planned like malls in different cities, especially metros. While there have been initiatives, we need multiple venues with world-class facilities," he says.

'I think 2024 was the first time when so many concerts were held in India'

The singer, who is known for his songs like *Jaikara*, *Teri Deewani*, says that the biggest change in the music scene this year has been the increase in live shows and concerts. "2024 was the first time that so many concerts have happened in India. As compared to the last few years, there was a significant rise in the number of concerts. Fans are evolving and now they want to attend live concerts. *Pehle kaun concert ke tickets khareedta tha? Pehle toh free mein chahiye thi sabko tickets*. Now, we are at a stage where almost all our shows are sold out. Fans are changing their approach towards music and what they like to hear is also changing. They give preference to non-filmy music too," he says.

'In Delhi, we have an urgent requirement of at least five more indoor and outdoor venues, where big-scale concerts can be organised. As there are more concerts being organised now, we should have more venues for such performances'

TRIPPIN'

Stars give 2025 a wintry welcome! From snow-peaked mountains, carnivals in London to dreamy Finland - celebs bid farewell to 2024 wrapped in winter goodness

Shilpa Shetty Kundra

Urmila Matondkar

Triptii Dimri